

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, November 7, 2024

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SDPD Attempts to Identify Pickpocket Suspect

THIEF TARGETING SMART PHONES OF SHOPPERS INSIDE TRADER JOE'S

San Diego – The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) is seeking the public's assistance in identifying a pickpocket series thief. The man is described as a Hispanic male in his 30's, 5'8 to 5'10, normal build, and short dark hair. At the time of the thefts, he was wearing a white sweater, black pants, white athletic shoes, and driving a black Mercedes Benz.

On Thursday, October 17, 2024 at around 6 p.m., SDPD Officers responded to a radio call where a victim located their stolen cell phone with an unknown man. The man fled the area before police arrived, however over a dozen stolen cell phones were recovered. The investigation has revealed thirteen phones were stolen within three hours. All victims were shopping inside various Trader Joe's stores throughout the City of San Diego. SDPD has been able to reunite twelve of the stolen phones with their owners.

SDPD is currently investigating this theft series. The assigned detective recently obtained video surveillance footage of a man attempting to purchase items from the Best Buy in Mira Mesa using one of the recovered cell phones. The picture is attached. If you recognize this person or have any information regarding the thefts, please call SDPD Eastern Division at (858) 495-7900.

SDPD would also like to remind the public to be vigilant and aware of their surroundings, especially during the holiday season. Many victims in these cases had their phone in their pockets, purses and bags slung on their bodies when the theft occurred.



Person of Interest

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