



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

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August 13, 2014

**DETECTIVES BREAK UP
IPHONE THEFT RING**

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is investigating a grand theft ring that teamed up to victimize the Apple retail store located inside the Galleria Mall. The Galleria Mall is located at 2414 East Sunrise Boulevard in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

The Regional Loss Prevention Manager for Apple contacted detectives to inform them that there was a group of employees who devised a scheme to defraud Apple of their products.

This ring of suspects was comprised of one male leader, five male accomplices and one female accomplice who worked collectively in a scheme to steal over \$500,000.00 worth of property from Apple.

Six of these suspects were Apple employees and one was an employee of a Best Buy Mobile Store located in the City of Sunrise.

Members of Apple's Loss Prevention Team initiated an investigation that uncovered an excessive amount of iPhone exchanges that were being conducted by the same group of employees. The ring leader of this group would contact his accomplice at Best Buy and he would provide a list of serial numbers for iPhones in Best Buy's inventory. The Apple employees would then select a serial number off of the list and associate it to the phone being exchanged. The exchanged iPhones were later discovered to be locked and / or stolen. These employees used the serial numbers provided by the Best Buy employee, because Apple's system would not allow a swap to be processed on a phone that was locked through "Find My iPhone" or reported stolen.

This investigation also revealed that the members of this theft ring were working with yet to be identified individuals who would bring in stolen iPhones to be swapped out for a new unlocked iPhone.

When the Apple employees were interviewed, they informed detectives that they were being paid between \$45.00 and \$75.00 for each transaction that they completed. Further investigation revealed that there were close to six hundred (600) fraudulent iPhone exchanges conducted during the course of this scheme.

The leader of this group has been identified as Devon Persad, W/M, 07/27/88, a resident of the City of Tamarac.

Persad's accomplices have been identified as the following;

P.R.# 2014-058
OR# 14-066833

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- Adam Alvarez, W/M, 07/17/90, a resident of the City of Fort Lauderdale
- Daniel Michael Scotti, W/M, 08/20/69, a resident of the City of Fort Lauderdale
- Sean Flynn, W/M, 05/11/89, a resident of the Town of Davie
- Anthony Joseph Tranchida, 09/22/91, a resident of the City of Plantation
- Otis Jerrell Ferguson, B/M, 09/28/76, a resident of the City of Miramar
- Sadia A. Dandia, W/F, 04/17/86, a resident of the City of Southwest Ranches

Fort Lauderdale Police Economic Crimes Detectives, alongside agents from the US Secret Service, located the listed members in this theft ring, except for Otis Ferguson.

Persad, Alvarez, Scott, Flynn, Tranchida, and Dandia were taken into custody and charged with the following;

- One Count of Obtaining Property over \$50,000 by Fraud
- One Count of Grand Theft (Less than \$100,000)
- One Count of Stolen Property Organized

This is an active and on-going investigation.

Anyone who may know the whereabouts of Ferguson or have more information on this organized theft ring should contact Detective Scott Moseley at 954-828-5531, Detective Scott Hoffer at 954-828-5530 or the Broward County Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS.



Leader: Devon Persad



Adam Alvarez



Daniel Scotti



Anthony Tranchida



Otis Ferguson



Sandia Dandia



Sean Flynn
(Best Buy Employee)

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