



# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 122-2010

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LETTER TO COMMISSION

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: April 26, 2010

SUBJECT: Middle District Burglaries

This Letter to the City Commission is to provide information on a series of burglaries that took place during the fall of 2009. These burglaries were determined to have similar characteristics which were as follows:

- All of the burglaries appeared to involve forced entry through a rear window during daytime hours;
- the targeted homes had no surrounding walls or bushes;
- the theft of property was not commonly associated with residential burglaries;
- a majority of the burglary victims were elderly and had some physical limitations.

The Criminal Investigation Unit's Property Crimes Detectives were able to develop a lead when finger prints were discovered inside the residences which led to the positive identification of two subjects. Detectives were able to link a total of nine (9) burglaries to the identified subjects. These subjects had also committed crimes in our neighboring jurisdictions.

Once the subjects were identified, the burglary trend seemed to subside as the Detectives pursued the subjects through the use of BOLO flyers, pawn shops and various investigative means. The subjects had obviously learned they were being pursued by the detectives and had fled the area. Due to the recovered evidence and investigation, the detectives were able to obtain warrants for both of the subjects.

On April 4, 2010, Detectives were contacted by the State of Ohio Corrections Department who had the subjects in custody. The Detectives were immediately dispatched to Ohio in an effort to interview and acquire a sworn taped confession. One of the subjects was cooperative and did confess to the crimes on Miami Beach, while implicating the other subject. The one subject stated, "Having grown up in Miami Beach has made me very familiar with the Beach." Additionally, it was discovered that property from two of the burglaries was found at a pawn shop in Miami. The interview yielded great investigatory evidence which allowed detectives to add additional criminal charges to the subjects.

This investigation was a joint effort consisting of several detectives, which included Sgt. Bennett, Detectives Pete Rodriguez (pawn shop), Elise Spina-Taylor, Marilyn Tepperberg, and Louis Alsina, as well as Crime Scene Unit latent examiners, Phil Womack and Maria Ferrer. Due to their extraordinary efforts and hard work, the subjects are now back in custody in South Florida for the charges stemming from the Miami Beach investigations, and will be serving time for the nine burglaries committed on Miami Beach.

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