



MONTEREY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**APRIL 21, 2022**

**Multiple Organized Retail Burglaries**

Recently the Monterey Police Department responded to four separate organized retail burglary crimes where groups of individuals targeted sunglass businesses.

On March 8, 2022, at 6:31 p.m., officers were dispatched to a business at Del Monte Shopping Center on Munras Avenue for a report of a robbery that had just occurred. Two males entered the store and began grabbing multiple pairs of sunglasses. When an employee tried to intervene, the suspects pushed the employee away. The suspects stole approximately \$13,000 worth of merchandise. The suspects fled the area and were not located.

On March 12, 2022, at 4:59 p.m., officers were dispatched to a business at Del Monte Shopping Center on Munras Avenue for a report of a burglary that had just occurred. Two male and two female suspects entered the store with bags and began filling the bags with sunglasses. The suspects stole approximately \$15,000 worth of sunglasses. The suspects fled in a dark-colored sedan.

On April 11, 2022, at 5:46 p.m., officers were dispatched to a business in the 700 block of Cannery Row for a report of a burglary that had just occurred. Store employees reported two males wearing masks entered the business and began grabbing multiple pairs of sunglasses valued at approximately \$13,000. The two suspects fled the store and drove away in a silver sedan. Responding officers

located a vehicle that matched the suspect's vehicle driving onto Highway 1 northbound from Fremont Street. The vehicle fled from officers at a high rate of speed and the subjects were not apprehended.

Monterey Detectives took over the investigation and identified one of the suspects from the April 11<sup>th</sup> theft as Colton Hunter, 31, of Turlock, CA. Monterey Police Detectives obtained an arrest warrant for Hunter, charging Penal Code 459 – Commercial Burglary and California Vehicle Code 2800.2 – Felony Evading. Detectives are still working on the case to identify Hunter's accomplice.

On April 15, 2022, at 5:37 p.m., officers were dispatched to a business at Del Monte Shopping Center on Munras Avenue for a report of a burglary that had just occurred. Store employees reported four males in masks entered the business carrying bags and began grabbing multiple pairs of sunglasses valued at approximately \$80,000. The four suspects fled the store and drove away in a dark grey sedan. Responding officers located a vehicle that matched the suspect's description driving onto Highway 1 northbound from Fremont Street. The vehicle recklessly fled from MPD officers at a high rate of speed. The California Highway Patrol and the California University of Monterey Bay Police Department located and pursued the vehicle on Highway 1 North. The vehicle eluded police and the subjects were not apprehended.

On April 21, 2022, at 12:48 p.m., officers were dispatched to a business in the 700 block of Cannery Row for a report of a burglary that had just occurred. Store employees reported a female entered the business with a trash bag and stole approximately \$10,000 worth of sunglasses. The suspect fled the area in a black Mercedes.

As reported by the National Retail Federation, organized retail theft accounts for nearly \$30 billion in economic loss each year. This loss is ultimately passed on to

consumers through price inflation to offset economic costs. MPD detectives are working with the California Organized Retail Theft Task Force to identify and arrest all of the involved individuals.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents is encouraged to contact Monterey Police Department Investigations Sergeant Aaron Delgado at (831) 646-3814, or to remain anonymous call (831) 646-3840.

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