

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Glendale Police Explorer Helps Nab Thieves

**Glendale, Ariz.** – Just before 1pm on a Sunday morning, November 3rd, 2013, after attending a local church service, a couple discovered someone burglarized their vehicle in the parking lot during the service at a church in the area of 17200 N. 59th Avenue. They found their garage door opener and registration paperwork that included their home address was stolen from the vehicle. Their 17 year old daughter, who is a Glendale Police Explorer, was at home alone when the suspects, Gerardo Ramirez and Jason Wortman, traveled to their residence in the area of 6500 W. Adobe Drive. The suspects backed their vehicle into the driveway and used the stolen garage door opener to open the garage door. Ramirez then began to knock on the door and ring the doorbell to see if anyone was home. They were both discouraged when Ramirez heard the sound of a television on inside the home. Realizing someone may be at home, both men took off fleeing the scene. The Glendale Police Explorer acted quickly and was able to obtain the license plate number off the suspect vehicle as it sped away.

With the information the Glendale Police Explorer provided police, Detectives initiated surveillance on the vehicle on Sunday, November 17th. It wasn't long before Wortman and Ramirez were caught in the act! They were observed driving around to various church parking lots in Sun City. A little after 10am, a Detective witnessed Ramirez break into a vehicle which was parked in the parking lot of a church in the area of 9500 W. Hutton Drive. With the assistance of MCSO deputies, a Glendale Police K9 officer stopped the vehicle and both men were taken into custody.

Wortman later admitted that he and Ramirez were on their way to burglarize the victim's home when they were arrested less than a block away from the victim's residence. Ramirez was found to have in his possession the victim's garage door opener, along with what appeared to be a handgun. It was later determined to be a BB gun used for intimidation. A search of the vehicle located evidence connecting both men to other church burglaries.

Due to the quick actions our own Glendale Police Explorer, two accused thieves are spending less time in church parking lots and are now spending time in jail. Both men were booked and charged with three counts of attempted residential burglary and two counts of vehicle burglary. Ramirez remains in custody on a no bond probation hold, and Wortman remains in custody on a \$3600 bond. See attached booking photos. The 17 year old Glendale Police Explorer will be available for on camera interviews at 4pm and 8pm this Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at Glendale Glitters. In addition, Officer Kris Steffa, representing the Glendale Police Explorer program, will be available for comment. Please contact the Glendale Police Public Information Office to schedule an interview.

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*\*Spanish translation available*

*“The Glendale Police Department's mission  
is to protect the lives and property of the people we serve.”*

*Glendale Police Department  
a proud recipient of CALEA National Accreditation since 2000*