

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Glendale Police Street Crimes Detectives Capture Tailgate Thieves

Glendale, Ariz. – On Thursday, May 2nd, 2013, Detectives from the Glendale Police Department's Street Crimes Unit apprehended two suspects believed to be connected to approximately 90% of the tailgate thefts that have been occurring in the city of Glendale and throughout the Valley Metro Area since February of 2013. Undercover Street Crimes Detectives, through their investigative efforts, developed information that led them to the suspects. An undercover surveillance operation was initiated by the Detectives. With some assistance from Phoenix Police and the DPS Auto Theft Task Force, Glendale Police UC Street Crimes Detectives were able to observe the two suspects, on multiple occasions, remove tailgates from trucks in several business locations from Glendale all the way to Tempe. UC Detectives were also able to set up undercover buys of stolen tailgates from the suspects.

Through their outstanding investigative efforts, Detectives working the case developed probable cause for the arrests of Nelson Lopez and Jose Cervantes, 18 and 19 years old, both residents of Glendale. Search warrants were obtained to include a residence and storage facility in Glendale. Lopez and Cervantes were taken into custody by Glendale Police Detectives without incident. They were charged with Felony Theft, Money Laundering and several counts of Trafficking Stolen Property. Detectives were able to successfully obtain confessions and recover some of the stolen property. Detectives have connected these individuals to 19 tailgate theft cases so far throughout the valley, and there may be many more. They are believed to have allegedly stolen nearly 70 tailgates, with a total value exceeding over 150,000 dollars.

Attached are surveillance photographs of the suspects stealing a tailgate from a truck in the city of Tempe. There is also surveillance video, provided by Phoenix PD air unit, of another tailgate theft from Phoenix. Booking photos are also attached of Lopez and Cervantes. A copy is available for pickup at the Glendale Police headquarters, located at 6835 N. 57th Drive.

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**Spanish translation available if needed*

*“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*





