



Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



(310) 539-1661

September 10, 2012

Dear Residents,

On Thursday, September 6, 2012, the Sheriff's Department at a meeting hosted by the City, discussed the investigation in regard to mail found at 77 Eastfield Drive, and Identity Theft in general. This letter summarizes the discussion at the meeting; please feel free to distribute it to neighbors who are interested or who were unable to attend the meeting.

There is no one more interested and determined in solving crime(s) associated with the former residents of 77 Eastfield Drive than the Sheriff's Department, Lomita Station. This case is a priority for us. Personally, as professionals, and with the City's insistence and strong support, we are applying all the appropriate and necessary resources to address the situation.

With over a year of surveillance for criminal activity related to burglaries, monitoring for potential violations of narcotics and concentrated patrol efforts, Lomita Station did not have sufficient evidence to arrest the residents at 77 Eastfield Drive. Then, over the Labor Day weekend, with the residents having been evicted by the property owner, U.S. mail and property stolen from other locations was found at the residence by the real estate agent cleaning the house. Lomita Station was notified, deputies responded and prepared the appropriate crime report. Unbeknownst to Lomita Station at the time, a list had been promulgated identifying the addresses of the found U.S. mail. That list was emailed by a neighbor to numerous residents prompting questions about potential Identity Theft, and about a possible connection with the residents of this house, or their visitors, to local burglaries committed over the past several years.

To address questions, we held a meeting on September 6 at Rancho Del Mar High School. Approximately 150 people attended. At the meeting, we covered the following:

- 1) The Sheriff's Department is "leaving no stone unturned." Along with the Identity Theft investigation, we will be investigating if any burglaries are related to this residence.

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The U.S. mail that was recovered appears to be primarily from May and June 2012. Letters have been sent to all residents whose U.S. mail was found at 77 Eastfield Drive. Those receiving letters are asked to contact Lomita Station if there has been a fraudulent charge or unauthorized uses of credit or personal information. If so, please call Detective Peterson at 310-891-3219.

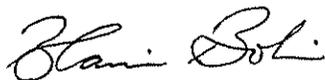
- 2) There was no evidence or reports taken by the Sheriff's Department with regard to prostitution or drug dealing at the residence over the past two years.
- 3) While the evidence collected at 77 Eastfield Drive has a diluted chain of custody, it will be useful, in partnership with resident credit/identity Theft reports, for proving fraudulent activity.
- 4) The location is currently vacant with a house sitter while it is prepared to go on the market. The former residents are not in the community.
- 5) The Rolling Hills Community Association has been very cooperative and helpful in addressing crime in the City. The gate guards routinely call Lomita Station to report suspicious or criminal activity. Lomita Station Detectives have viewed many days of data regarding criminal activity to investigate vehicles that could have been involved.
- 6) The Sheriff's Department discloses all it can for residents to know what is going on and the status of on-going investigations. However, for the integrity of each investigation and to protect the rights of all individuals involved, there are limits as to what can be stated. If there are questions, please call Lomita Station.
- 7) This case reminds the public that it is critical to protect personal information by taking appropriate precautions with U.S. mail and information on computers. Visit the City's website at www.Rolling-Hills.org (under Government/Sheriff) or the Sheriff's Department website at www.lasd.org to obtain general information.

If you have questions or information to contribute to this case, please call Detective Peterson at 310-891-3219 or Sergeant Moffett at 310-891-3215.

Thank you for your cooperation and on-going support.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF



Blaine Bolin, Captain
Lomita Sheriff Station