



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

CITY OF WOOD DALE

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PRESS RELEASE

Theft by Deception
Unlawful Possession of Fictitious Passport
CASE #10-08902

Offenders:



Carmen Maldonado
02-28-56
405 Fountain Head Cr.
Kissimmee, FL



Luz Cuellar
10-12-52
76-14 Park Lane South
Woodhaven, NY



Carlos Figueroa-Jimenez
02-11-83
19380 Collins Ave
Sunny Isles, FL

Wood Dale, IL – On July 7, 2010, a 77 year old resident of Wood Dale was approached in a grocery store parking lot by a woman who stated she believed she had a winning lottery ticket in her possession. Joined by another female accomplice who arrived on the scene, they began to convince the victim that they needed his help to them claim potential lottery winnings due to the fact that they were not legally in the country. A third male accomplice was involved in the scam and over the phone acted as an agent of the lottery and stated that they had to come up with a substantial amount of cash to claim the prize.

The victim was persuaded to contribute several thousand dollars to the offenders and would be given a share of the prize in return. The offenders took the victim to an area bank, and later left with the money when he was out of their sight. This type of scam is commonly referred to as a pigeon drop or lottery scam.

While investigating the crime, it was learned that there was a victim in Bensenville who had also been targeted by the same crew and had given them several thousand dollars and lost all of the money.

In an effort to educate the banking community that this was occurring in the area and to be on the lookout for suspicious transactions with these types of victims, Wood Dale Detectives distributed flyers to all area banking institutions.

On July 21, 2010, an employee of a Wood Dale bank observed an elderly male in the parking lot approached by two females who matched the description of the offenders in the previous cases. After a brief exchange, the male got into the vehicle with the females and left the scene. Patrol officers were dispatched to the area and stopped the vehicle in question.

Subsequent investigation revealed that these females were the offenders in the previous crimes that occurred in Wood Dale and Bensenville. The male accomplice was also apprehended at a later time during the investigation.

Upon conferring with the State's Attorney's Office, Carmen Maldonado and Luz Cuellar were each charged with 2 counts of Theft by Deception. Theft by Deception is a class 2 felony, punishable by up to 7 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections and up to a \$25,000 fine. Carlos Figueroa-Jimenez was charged with 1 count of Possession of a Fraudulent Passport, a class 4 felony, punishable by up to 3 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections and up to a \$25,000 fine. All 3 suspects are currently being held in the Du Page County Jail.

In addition to the charges listed above, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has issued detainers for Carmen Maldonado and Luz Cuellar for possible deportation proceedings.

If further information is needed regarding this arrest, contact Deputy Chief Greg Vesta at 630-787-3812.

Members of the public are reminded that these complaints contain only charges and are not proof of the defendant's guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government's burden to prove his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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