



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

ORGANIZED CRIME GROUP – DISTRACTION THEFT/CREDIT CARD FRAUD

MP18-29983

This bulletin is for situational awareness reference an organized crime group responsible for distraction thefts of credit cards and subsequent fraudulent credit card use. (No probable cause exists at this time)

On May 11, an elderly female victim was approached by a subject in the Ross store in Melbourne, FL. The male subject asked her some advice regarding a piece of clothing. Upon review of video surveillance, while the distraction is taking place, a second male subject is observed removing the victim's credit cards from her purse. Shortly after the theft, the victim learned her credit card was used at the neighboring Best Buy store to make a large fraudulent purchase of high-end products.

Through investigation it was learned the purchase at Best Buy was made using a Best Buy customer ID phone number linked back to a Jairo Martinez out of Miami. The same phone number/Best Buy customer ID number has been used approximately 150 times in the last 6 months to purchase items with stolen credit cards throughout the country. Multiple associates of Martinez have been identified as using the same M.O. to steal and use credit cards through distraction thefts. One of Martinez's associates recently arrested for a similar theft has been identified as Alberto Cortes.

The thefts are occurring at department stores like Ross, TJMAXX, Marshalls, and Homegoods. The fraudulent credit card purchases are being made at Best Buy, Apple Store and Target. Suspects are purchasing items such as high-end Nikon and Canon cameras, MacBook Pro laptops, Samsung Galaxy cell phones, Nintendo consoles, JBL Bluetooth speakers and Apple Airpods. Each fraudulent purchase is in the \$2,000 - \$7,000 range.



Suspect 1 distracted the elderly female victim in Ross.



Suspect 2 committed the theft at Ross and then changed his shirt and purchased a MacBook Pro next door at the Best Buy.



Jairo Martinez
DOB: 11/29/76
LKA: 9886 Hammocks Bl
#106, Miami
FLDL: M635-421-76-429-0



Alberto Cortes
DOB: 9/15/80
LKA: 15638 SW 91 Ln,
Miami
FLDL: C632-000-80-335-0

If any person has additional information or questions, please contact Detective Frost with the Melbourne Police Department Criminal Investigations Division at (321) 608-6459.