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Organized Burglary Crew Caught in Act Following Multi-Agency Investigation

San Diego — In September 2026, the San Diego Police Department, the San Diego County Sheriff's Office, and the District Attorney's Office put together a working group to investigate Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) burglary crews targeting San Diego County residents.

Investigators identified a series of burglaries in San Diego County that occurred between September and November 2026 in SDPD and SDSO jurisdictions. Through a collaborative effort of investigators and law enforcement resources, a suspected organized burglary crew was identified and believed to be connected to multiple crimes in Southern California, including San Diego.

On November 11, 2026, at about 4 p.m., during an operation attempting to catch the burglary crew, investigators observed the suspects enter an unoccupied home through a second-story window in the Eastlake neighborhood of Chula Vista. Resources were quickly deployed from SDPD, SDSO, and the DA to apprehend the suspects.

"I want to thank all of the investigators who worked on this case. It demonstrates just how effective San Diego can be when we combine good police work with regional collaboration," said Police Chief Scott Wahl. "The unfortunate reality is that these theft groups are becoming more common, and they leave an impact on our communities. Rest assured, if you're part of these organized theft rings, we will use every resource to find you and hold you accountable."

"Crews such as this have been operating in the United States for years. Their tactics have made them incredibly hard to capture," said Sheriff Kelly Martinez. "The innovation and collaboration bringing together the resources of law enforcement agencies in our region made the detection and arrest of this crew possible. I'm grateful for the commitment of this multi-jurisdictional team."

Three vehicle stops were conducted just as the suspects attempted to flee the area. All five suspects were arrested for conspiracy to commit burglary. Investigators recovered approximately $50,000 in stolen jewelry and purses, which had been taken from the victim's residence. Additionally, the suspects were in possession of a handgun, which had been stolen from a safe in the residence.

Further investigation showed that this crew was in possession of burglary tools, vehicle-tracking equipment, and trail cameras.

All five subjects arrested were adults between the ages of 32 and 48 years old. The subjects were booked into San Diego County Jail and are currently awaiting court proceedings.

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