



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# NEWS RELEASE

## San Diego Police Department

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **WARNING REGARDING SCAM TARGETING ELDERLY HISPANIC FEMALES**

**(San Diego)** The San Diego Police Department Elder Abuse Unit is investigating three cases involving two suspects who are scamming elderly people out of cash.

To date, three victims have reported that they have been taken by the scam. The victims are all elderly Hispanic females. The suspects target victims who shop at strip malls located at 3200 Sports Arena Blvd. and 5600 Balboa Avenue.

The suspects are a Hispanic female (Spanish speaker) and a Hispanic male (English and Spanish speaker). Composite sketches of each suspect can be found on page two of this news release.

In the reported cases, the female suspect approaches the victim and begins speaking to her in Spanish. The suspect tells the victim a story of financial problems and the need to travel home to Mexico or Puerto Rico to visit sick relatives. She says she works in a hotel and found some valuable gems or rare coins and doesn't know what to do with the items. At this point, the male suspect intercedes and says he has a friend who can authenticate the jewelry or coins as genuine. He encourages the victim to purchase the items for several thousand dollars. And he tells the victim that his friend would be willing to purchase the items from the victim at a great profit. In one case, a victim paid the suspects for what she thought was a diamond; it turned out to be cubic zirconium.

The losses in the reported cases range from \$4,500 to \$11,000. The SDPD recommends that anyone who has been a victim of fraud report it immediately.

Detectives advise elderly individuals against interacting with strangers who are asking for assistance or trying to sell items. If a deal appears too good to be true; it is. Additionally, in one case the victim allowed the suspects to ride in her car to her bank. It is not advisable to invite strangers into your vehicle.

If you have been a victim of this scam, please contact the SDPD for assistance at (619) 531-2000.



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