

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 8, 2022

Contact: Jerri Mares -- (505) 321-4372

Attorney General Reports on Organized Retail Crime Operation; Nets Multiple Arrests

ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that a two-day coordinated law enforcement operation targeting organized retail crime resulted in the arrest of multiple offenders over the weekend, the majority being repeat offenders. The operation was specifically designed to target in-progress felonies and known repeat offenders at Albuquerque retailers.

Starting on February 4th, investigators made seventeen arrests, including fifteen felony arrests. Additionally, the operation resulted in the recovery of three stolen vehicles and approximately \$5,000 in stolen merchandise was recovered for retailers. Among those arrested were Felicia Romero and Luis Valdez, who were taken into custody after stealing approximately \$1,200 in copper conduit. Valdez was wearing a Kevlar vest at the time of arrest and a firearm was located in the vehicle.

“Today’s announcement highlights an increased effort to target the dangerous criminals that continue to disrupt families in our communities,” said Attorney General Balderas. “New Mexico families deserve to shop safely, and we will continue to target dangerous criminals through coordinated law enforcement operations to increase the safety level in our communities.”

The operation was conducted as part of the emerging Organized Retail Crime (ORC) Task Force and included members and agents from the NM Office of the Attorney General, Albuquerque Police Department Organized Crime Unit, Albuquerque Police Department Impact Unit, Albuquerque Police Department Problem Response Team, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and asset protection personnel from the retail community.

A copy of the operation arrest list is attached.

###

Organized Retail Crime Operation Arrests
February 4-5, 2022



Jonathan Garcia
DOB/ 1992
Receiving/Transferring a stolen MV
Possession of a Controlled Substance



Alexis Bencomo
DOB/1995
Shoplifting



Luis Lara-Valdez
DOB/1996
Felony Shoplifting
Conspiracy to Commit a Felony
Resisting/Evading Arrest



Felicia Romero
DOB/ 1997
Felony Shoplifting
Conspiracy to Commit a Felony
Resisting/Evading Arrest

Organized Retail Crime Operation Arrests
February 4-5, 2022



Juan Cerceres
DOB/1989
Receiving/Transferring a Stolen MV



Monique Romero
DOB/1994
Receiving/Transferring a Stolen MV
Misdemeanor Warrant



Martin Gutierrez
DOB/1981
Shoplifting
Probation Violation



Benny Torres
DOB/1992
Shoplifting

Organized Retail Crime Operation Arrests
February 4-5, 2022



Jonathan Madrid
DOB/1999
Felony Shoplifting
Misdemeanor Warrant



Hosam Rashid
DOB/1974
Possession of a Controlled Substance
Shoplifting



David Aranda
DOB/1981
Shoplifting



Garrett Nash
DOB/1997
Felony Shoplifting
Conspiracy to Commit a Felony

Organized Retail Crime Operation Arrests
February 4-5, 2022



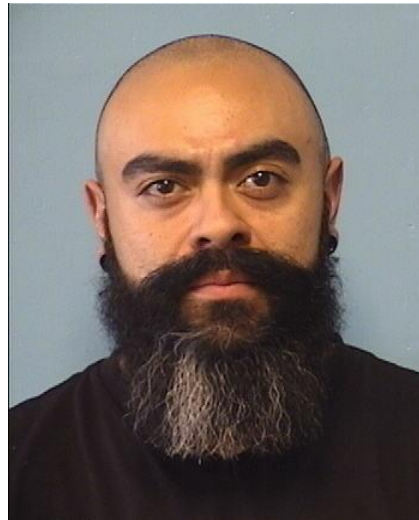
Matthew Martinez
DOB/ 1978
Receiving/Transferring a stolen MV



Mikal Chavarria
DOB/ 1994
Shoplifting
Resisting/Evading Arrest



Charles Curry
DOB/ 1991
Shoplifting



Joseph Vigil
DOB/1984
Shoplifting
Misdemeanor Warrant

Organized Retail Crime Operation Arrests
February 4-5, 2022



Joseph Goodhue
DOB/ 1997
Four (4) Felony Warrants
Misdemeanor Warrant