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BULLETIN



TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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WHEEL REPAIR SCAM SUSPECT

October 15, 2015

DETAILS:



On Thursday, August 20, 2015, 11:30 AM, the 79-year-old female victim was at the **ARCO GAS STATION** located at the intersection of Anza & PCH when the pictured suspect engaged her in conversation and told her he used to be an employee at the gas station. He told her she had a damaged wheel that needed to be repaired for safety reasons and instructed her to drive to the adjacent **CVS** parking lot where he could repair her vehicle. The suspect then entered the maintenance garage of the **ARCO** and reemerged after approximately one minute. He appeared to manipulate the rear left wheel before telling her he repaired three nuts at \$650 per nut. When the victim told the suspect she did not have the money to pay for the work he allegedly performed, he told her to go to the **BANK OF AMERICA** across the street. The victim drove the suspect in her vehicle to the aforementioned bank where they entered the location together and she withdrew money and paid the suspect. The suspect advised the victim that **AAA** would reimburse her for the cost of his labor and he would arrange for same.



On Friday, August 28, 2015, at 12:00 PM, the 81-year-old female victim was loading groceries in her vehicle at the **RALPHS MARKET**, 2909 Rolling Hills Rd when a male adult, 50-60 years of age, 5'10" tall, medium build, dark ear length hair, approached her and told her the right rear wheel of her vehicle was damaged, causing the vehicle to be unsafe. He said he was an **AAA** worker and convinced the victim to allow him to drive her in her vehicle to the **76 GAS STATION** across the street to have the wheel properly fixed. At the gas station, the suspect appeared to work on the wheel and produced a bolt, explaining the bolt was stripped and it was probably what was causing the vehicle's wheel to wobble. The suspect told the victim he had replaced all of the lug nuts to the wheel and it would cost her \$90. The victim told the susp she didn't have \$90 and when he offered to drive her to her bank, she told him she didn't have \$90 in the bank either. The suspect then entered a white, newer SUV and left the area.

SUSPECT DESCRIPTION: (**ARCO** incident) Hispanic or other male adult, older, 6'2" tall, 230-240 pounds, shaved head, gray beard, wearing a light blue polo shirt, dark shorts, white tennis shoes, eyeglasses, unknown tattoo on his left leg

SUSPECT VEHICLE: Dark, possibly black SUV

**PLEASE CONTACT THE TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT AT
* * 310.618.5570 * * WITH ANY RELATED INFORMATION**