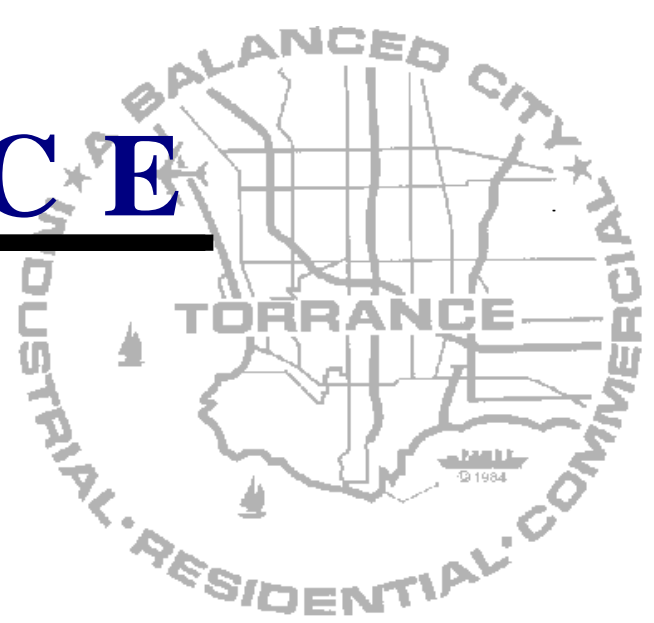


# T O R R A N C E



## Press Release

Police Department  
October 28, 2020

### EDD Scam Arrests

Since September 10, 2020, the Torrance Police Department has arrested twenty-seven (27) individuals related to EDD fraud and identity theft. The suspects utilized stolen identities to acquire EDD unemployment benefits fraudulently. During the investigations, officers recovered over 130 EDD cards, over \$150,000 in U.S. currency, and recovered four handguns, two of which were determined to be non-serialized "ghost guns."



In each case, the suspects possessed and used debit cards preloaded with unemployment benefits administered by the California Employment Development Department (EDD). Most debit cards were issued in third parties' names, including identity theft victims, with a value of up to \$20,000 per card. The suspects possessed numerous cards and would often use the cards to make high-end purchases and make cash withdrawals from ATM's.



The Torrance Police Department reminds anyone who receives mail from EDD, and you did not apply for it, or receive mail in someone else's name who does not live at your residence, to call your local police department "See something, Say Something."

Investigators will continue to work with State and Federal law enforcement agencies to help battle this ongoing criminal trend.

These investigations were conducted under the command and direction of Torrance Police Captain Mark Athan of the Special Operations Bureau. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Torrance Police Department at (310) 328-3456.



Sergeant Alexander Martinez  
Torrance Police Department Public Information Officer  
(310) 618-5688  
[Amartinez@TorranceCa.gov](mailto:Amartinez@TorranceCa.gov)      # # #