

T O R R A N C E

Press Release

Police Department

August 2nd, 2021

VIOLENT CRIMINAL FACING FEDERAL CHARGES

Justin Washington, 32, of Gardena, was named in a 14-count federal grand jury indictment on July 6th, 2021. Washington was indicted on federal criminal charges alleging he committed a five-day armed robbery spree of nearly a dozen Los Angeles County businesses. He is charged with 11 counts of Hobbs Act robbery and 3 counts of using a firearm during a crime of violence.

According to the indictment, Washington robbed and attempted to rob 10 businesses in the South Bay and South Los Angeles. One of those businesses was a donut shop in Torrance. Detectives from our Special Investigations Division began working with other police agencies affected by Washington's crime spree. As the detectives worked diligently to identify, locate and arrest Washington, they collaborated with our federal law enforcement partners (F.B.I., and A.T.F.) and the U.S. Attorney's Office. This investigation led to Washington's arrest and indictment in federal court for the listed charges.



It should be noted a violation of the Hobbs Act carries a statutory maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. The offense of brandishing a firearm during a crime of violence carries a statutory maximum sentence of life in federal prison. This joint effort with our federal law enforcement partners and the U.S. Attorney's Office will ensure that violent criminals are held accountable for their crimes if convicted in a court of law.

This partnership will continue to grow stronger as the rise in violent crime increases in Los Angeles County and we seek alternatives for stricter accountability to counter policies that weaken the victim's role within our justice system. We are committed to working with our federal partners to support our victims of violent crime and assist them in seeking justice. The Torrance Police Department continues to encourage the community to be vigilant of any criminal activity. "See Something, Say Something".

This investigation is being conducted under the command of Torrance Police Department Special Operations Bureau.



Sergeant Mark Ponegalek
Torrance Police Department Public Information Officer
(310) 618-5688
MPonegalek@TorranceCa.gov

TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

3300 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, TORRANCE CALIFORNIA 90503

TPD 181 (Rev. 1/06)