

T O R R A N C E

Press Release

Police Department

January 3rd, 2022

Follow-Up

STOLEN ELECTION BALLOTS FEDERAL INDICTMENT

After several months of an exhaustive investigation in partnership with the United States Postal Inspection Service and the United States Attorney's Office, Eduardo Mena (age 34 from Hawthorne), who was arrested in August of 2021 by the Torrance Police Department with over 300 stolen election ballots, was formally indicted this past month by a Federal Grand Jury in Los Angeles on charges of Bank Fraud, Aggravated Identity Theft, Possession of Stolen Mail, and Felon in Possession of Ammunition.

This case provides a great example of our department partnering with Federal law enforcement to aggressively pursue criminals, and conduct thorough investigations that leads to opportunities for accountability and justice. One of the main goals for this investigation was to determine what Mena's intent with the stolen election ballots was. Investigators have gone through multiple pieces of electronic evidence and physical evidence in this case to determine that intent. After reviewing all of that evidence, investigators have not uncovered any evidence indicating Mena intended to engage in any type of election fraud. Conversely, investigators uncovered evidence that showed Mena was involved in schemes to commit bank fraud and identity theft. The investigators were able to determine the election ballots were among numerous items of mail stolen from a United States Postal Service vehicle. It should be noted Mena is currently in custody on state charges for an unrelated case.

We are committed to working with our federal partners to support victims of 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 Special Operations Bureau, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.



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