



PRESS RELEASE

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EL MONTE ARRESTEE SENTENCED TO 24 YEARS IN PRISON

El Monte, Calif. – Delia Socorro Tellez, a 53-year-old woman who was found guilty on 24 felony counts of grand theft, burglary and elder abuse on March 10, was sentenced Wednesday, April 28, to 24 years in prison by a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge. Tellez, who was accused of running scams throughout California, targeted elderly residents, sometimes as they left church.

“This was a very large sentence for a financial crimes case,” said El Monte Police Detective, Brian Glick. “It really sent a message about these types of crimes.”

During the investigation the El Monte Police Department played a crucial role in Tellez’ conviction, ultimately making her arrest in December 2008. Tellez was convicted after a three-week trial, which heard testimony about victims from El Monte, Lakewood, City of Industry, Los Angeles, Whittier, Burbank, Glendale, Maywood, South Gate and West Covina.

“The suspects in this case really put a lot of thought, detail and effort into committing these crimes. All of the victims in this case are 65-years-or-older and were conned into giving the suspects thousands of dollars, jewelry, and in some cases, their entire life savings,” said Detective Brian Glick, of the El Monte Police Department. “Investigating this case and hearing the stories of how these elderly victims were tricked is heartbreaking. Unfortunately, the Latin Lotto Scam is committed by an organized group; therefore, we still have elderly people falling for this scam.”

Tellez was arrested December 19, 2008, by El Monte police following an investigation, lasting more than a year that identified more than 20 victims within Los Angeles County who had been tricked out of thousands of dollars, using two different types of scams.

Because of the ages of the victims and the number of police agencies involved, the Elder Abuse Unit of the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office stepped in and successfully prosecuted Tellez.

“The fact that the El Monte Police Department was identified as the lead agency for these regional crimes speaks volumes about our officers’ investigative skills and capacity to ensure criminals who prey on community members are put behind bars,” said El Monte Mayor André Quintero. “El Monte will not tolerate financial scams, nor

violent crimes, within our community. We are proud of our officers and feel safer in our community knowing they are patrolling our streets.”

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The City of El Monte, located in Southern California, is committed to improving the quality of life for its citizens and strives to provide its community personalized service, uncompromising commitment, and individualized accountability. For information on the City of El Monte, please call 626-580-2001 or visit www.ci.el-monte.ca.us/.