



Tigard Police Department Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | **December 22, 2015**

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Tigard Police Conduct Gift Card Fraud Investigation - Nearly 500 iPhones Seized

On December 4th, investigators with the Tigard Police Commercial Crimes Unit were participating in a mission to identify possible organized retail theft occurring at the Washington Square Mall in Tigard. During the operation, a Tigard Police detective observed a man conducting suspicious transactions at the Apple Store using large stacks of gift cards, which can be indicative of organized retail crime. Investigators continued to follow the suspect as he left the store with the purchases. The suspect was then observed opening the trunk of an occupied rented vehicle which was packed full of Apple shopping bags. The suspects then drove away from the mall and was stopped by police a short distance away on Highway 217 in Tigard.

The two suspects cooperated with investigators by allowing a search of the vehicle and also providing receipts and details surrounding their purchases. In total, investigators seized 470 iPhones with an approximate value of \$292,000 along with hundreds of gifts cards and transactional records totaling over \$585,000. The investigation also led detectives to a nearby FedEx store where numerous boxes had been dropped-off earlier by the same suspects with intent to ship them to Hong Kong. The boxes, all containing Apple iPhones, were seized by Tigard investigators. The extent of the fraudulent purchases is likely to total three-quarters of a million dollars.

Tigard Police investigators are continuing to probe further into the complexities of the transactions and the resulting merchandise which had been fraudulently purchased at the Apple Stores located at Washington Square Mall and Bridgeport Village. Investigators now know that the fraudulent gift card purchases are directly linked to counterfeit credit cards with origins in Southern California. No arrests have been made at this time as the investigation continues.