



Steve Pangelinan  
Chief of Police

**PRESS RELEASE**

**IDENTITY THIEVES ARRESTED**

**DATE:** March 18, 2015  
**LOCATION:** Days Inn @ 270 South Abbott Avenue, Milpitas, CA  
**CASE #:** 15-077-216  
**VICTIM(S):** Multiple victims from the South Bay Area  
**SUSPECT #1:** Josephine Lavina Martinez, 37 year-old female, San Jose, CA resident  
**SUSPECT #2:** Chester Monroe III, 31 year-old male, San Jose, CA resident  
**TIME ELEMENT:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at approximately 9:10 P.M.

On Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at approximately 9:10 P.M., the night clerk at the Days Inn, located at 270 South Abbott Avenue, called 9-1-1 to report a disturbance in a hotel room on the first floor. The clerk said she could hear people arguing and banging on the walls. Milpitas Police Officer's arrived within minutes and contacted Josephine Martinez and Chester Monroe III inside the motel room.

During the investigation, officers discovered credit card information, biographical information, identification cards, checks, and a vehicle pink slip for people other than Martinez and Monroe III. Officers also located several glass pipes used to smoke illegal street drugs in plain sight. Based on the officer's observations, Martinez was arrested for being in possession of personal information of another and possession of drug paraphernalia. Monroe III was arrested for being in possession of personal information of another, possession of drug paraphernalia, and a counterfeit twenty dollar bill.

Several of the victims were contacted and it was discovered they were all victims of auto or commercial burglaries from multiple cities including Sunnyvale, Gilroy and San Jose. The Milpitas Police Department has possibly identified another 19 victims and officers are attempting to contact them for a statement. The case is still under investigation.

After a lengthy investigation, Martinez was booked into the Santa Clara County Jail for being in possession of personal information of another, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of stolen property, possession of burglary tools, and possession of fictitious checks. Monroe III was booked into the Santa Clara County Jail for being in possession of personal information of another, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of stolen property, and possession of fictitious checks.



## MILPITAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Anyone with any information regarding this investigation involving Josephine Martinez and Chester Monroe III is encouraged to call the Milpitas Police Department at (408) 586-2400. Information can be given anonymously by calling the Crime Tip Hotline at (408) 586-2500 or via the Milpitas Police Department website at: [http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/government/police/crime\\_tip.asp](http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/government/police/crime_tip.asp)

Press Release By: Lieutenant Raj Maharaj #216

Date/Time: March 19, 2015; 8:00 P.M.



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**Suspect #1:** Josephine Lavina Martinez



**Suspect #2:** Chester Monroe III