



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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Public Information Officer
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Date: 9/23/2016
Time: 1:45 p.m.

News Release

Sheriff's Office Warns Public of Recent Vehicle Repair Scam

Santa Barbara – At approximately 2:45 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2016, an 86-year-old resident from the unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County near Goleta was returning to his vehicle after grocery shopping in the 5800 block of Calle Real. The senior citizen was approached by a suspect who told him that his brake lights were broken and offered to fix them. The suspect was with a female and several children who talked to the victim while the suspect “fixed” the vehicle. The suspect requested payment and even went so far as to write the victim a receipt for parts that he never replaced. The senior paid the suspect and shortly after realized he was the victim of a scam.

Sheriff's deputies responded and conducted an investigation into the incident. Upon reviewing the surveillance video they observed that the same suspect and a second suspect approached other people in the parking lot and tampered with unoccupied vehicles. At one point on the video, a vehicle owner appeared to pay the second suspect.

The suspects are associated with a dark colored 2012-2016 Toyota Prius c. If you have any information regarding these suspects, please call the Sheriff's Office at 805-683-2724. To leave an anonymous tip, please call 805-681-4171 or go to our website at www.sbsheriff.org.



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