



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

Kelly Hoover
Public Information Officer
(805) 681-4192

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News Release

Public Assistance Requested to Identify Package Theft Suspect

Santa Barbara — The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office is asking for public assistance to help identify a female suspect who was captured on surveillance video stealing a package off the front porch of a Goleta residence. The theft occurred on December 30, 2016 in the 500 block of Carlo Drive but surveillance video was just recently made available to the Sheriff's Office. The recipient did not realize the package was stolen until the following week when a family member called to see if it was received. The resident then realized the package had not made it to its destination and reviewed surveillance video from the front porch. Unfortunately, the items in the package that were stolen were sentimental and irreplaceable.

The suspect in the video appears to be a black or dark skinned Hispanic female adult who was driving a newer model black 4-door Ford Focus. In the video, she parks in front of the residence, gets out of the car, walks casually to the front porch, takes the package, walks back to her vehicle and drives off. She is then seen pulling into a driveway a few houses away and looking into a mailbox with the flag up. She leaves without taking any of the mail. If you have any information on the identity of this suspect, you are asked to call the Sheriff's Office at 805-681-4100. To leave an anonymous tip, call 805-681-4171.

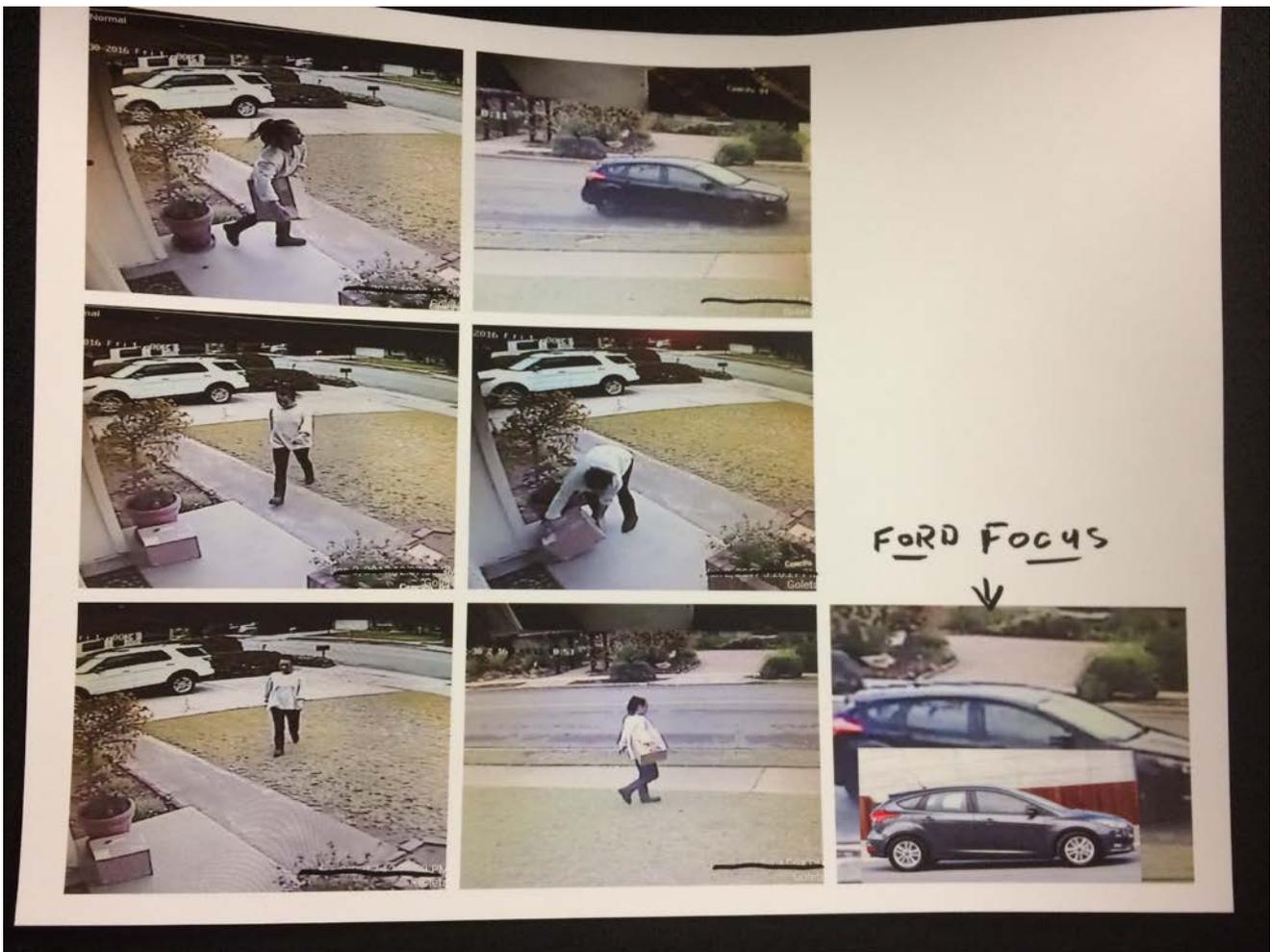
The Sheriff's Office has received an increase in the number of reports of stolen packages from the front porches of residences the past several weeks in various parts of Santa Barbara County. Most of these thefts occurred during the afternoon or early evening hours when the residences were unoccupied.

The Sheriff's Office wants to take this opportunity to remind citizens of some important steps they can take to help prevent package theft:

- Let your neighbors know when a delivery is expected in a day or two so they can be on the lookout for the package as well.
- Bring packages indoors quickly to limit exposure to thieves.

- Request tracking and delivery alerts when ordering online.
- Consider having packages shipped to places of employment, friends, or family.
- Residential surveillance systems can also be helpful in assisting investigators with solving these crimes.

The Sheriff's Office reminds citizens to be vigilant about reporting suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood. Suspicious vehicles can include vehicles driving aimlessly, very slowly, up and down the street, apparently lost, such as driving down cul-de-sacs or dead end streets, and other similar actions. Suspicious people can exhibit similar behavior including, approaching houses and then asking about lost dogs or other fictitious stories when confronted by homeowners. Always remember, to report suspicious activity in progress, call 911.



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