



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**SIERRA MADRE POLICE INITIATE TRAFFIC STOP THAT RESULTS IN ARREST FOR CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT AND NARCOTICS POSSESSION**

Sierra Madre, CA. - January 20, 2022

On January 17, 2022, officers from the Sierra Madre Police Department initiated a traffic stop for a vehicle code violation. Upon further investigation, officers discovered that the three occupants were in possession of a sawed-off catalytic converter, power tools commonly used in catalytic converter thefts, and methamphetamine. Three occupants were arrested; Jorge Ballesteros from Los Angeles, Nathanael Reyes from El Monte, and Mayra Medrano from Los Angeles for possessing a stolen catalytic converter, burglary tools, and narcotics.

The Sierra Madre Police Dept. wants to remind you to park your vehicles in a garage, if possible, park in well-lit areas, and watch for double-parked vehicles. There are also after-market components, such as a CAT Clamp and Cat Security device, that you can purchase to make the catalytic converters challenging to steal. In addition, there is also the option of etching the vehicle identification number (VIN) on the converter. Please call SMPD at 626-355-1414 if you see any suspicious activity.

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