

# **SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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# **NEWS RELEASE**

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**\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \***

Date: September 14, 2006

## **Organized Crime Ring Dismantled – Over \$500,000 in Stolen Property Recovered**

SEATTLE – Attorney General Rob McKenna and Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske today announced the conclusion of a vast organized crime investigation. Martin D. Levy (69, Mercer Island) and Richard and Leslie F. Calvo (37 and 38, Seattle) were charged today with a total of 31 counts, including Trafficking in Stolen Property, Possession of Stolen Property, Solicitation of Theft and/or Theft, Leading Organized Crime, Money Laundering and Violation of the Uniformed Controlled Substances Act.

“These individuals are responsible for an incredible amount of property crimes in our city. We may never know the full extent of their misdeeds. Their capture, coupled with the closure of the Liberty Loan Pawn Shop, is a victory for our department and a testament to the hard work of our Criminal Intelligence Section,” said Chief Kerlikowske.

“This investigation was the result of a tremendous amount of time and energy on the part of the Seattle Police Department,” McKenna said. “Based on the extensive evidence gathered, our Criminal Justice Division has been able to build a strong case. This is a prime example of how the Attorney General’s Office can use its criminal prosecution expertise to work together with local law enforcement to bring cases to justice.”

This monumental case began 2 ½ years ago and encompassed several hundred felonies committed against downtown Seattle retailers. The victims of these orchestrated thefts ranged from art glass

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galleries to retailers specializing in couture clothing and accessories. Stolen items were either kept for personal use or were sold at the Liberty Loan Pawn Shop, owned by Levy. The three suspects employed an elaborate scheme, in which they utilized 'hired' thieves to steal predetermined items from targeted merchants.

This case originally came to the attention of Detective Dan Stokke via information provided by a confidential informant. The subsequent investigation required thousands of hours of undercover work and aid by additional informants. The service of search warrants in July of 2005 yielded so much recovered stolen property that a special room in the Evidence Section had to be created to store it. According to Evidence Section records, this is the third largest seizure of evidence in Seattle Police Department history, following the Pang warehouse fire and the Wah Mee massacre.

In December of 2005, the case was forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for consideration of charges. Detectives have not yet begun the arduous task of returning stolen property to its rightful owners. Some items have already been identified and claimed by the victims.

For additional information, please contact Officer Sean Whitcomb at 206 684-5520 or Attorney General Media Relations Director Janelle Guthrie at 360 586-0725.

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