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CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Dominick Rivetti

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464 N Rexford Drive ★ Beverly Hills, CA 90210 ★ [www.beverlyhills.org/police](http://www.beverlyhills.org/police)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

September 16, 2020

### **California Employment Development Department (EDD) Fraud and Identity Theft Arrests**

*Beverly Hills, CA* – Since September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) has arrested 44 individuals within the City of Beverly Hills responsible for EDD fraud and identity theft. A total of 129 fraudulent EDD credit cards have been recovered with a value over \$2.5 million dollars and over \$289,000 in U.S. currency has also been located on the suspects and subsequently seized. Officers have also located seven (7) handguns carried on the suspects' persons or within their vehicles.

Earlier this month, the Beverly Hills Police Department learned criminals were fraudulently obtaining EDD benefits loaded onto EDD debit cards using stolen identities. The monetary value placed on the cards by EDD can be as high as \$20,000. Cardholders are able to withdraw up to \$1,000 per day, per card. Suspects have traveled primarily from out of state to obtain these fraudulent EDD cards in California. The suspects will most often have numerous EDD cards in their possession with other people's identities, along with large amounts of cash. They will then use the cards to lease short-term rentals, rent luxury vehicles, dine at restaurants and purchase high-end merchandise.

In response to this growing trend and the numerous arrests and seizures, the BHPD met today with local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies and have agreed to work in partnership to combat this issue. This includes the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, the United States Secret Service, U.S Postal Inspector's Office, U.S. Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service. "There are millions of tax dollars being spent fraudulently as a result of this trend," Police Chief Dominick Rivetti said. "The Beverly Hills Police Department is also working closely with our business community to keep them well informed of this trend in an effort to mitigate these crimes within our City."

Anyone who has information about this crime trend is encouraged to call the Beverly Hills Police Department at (310) 285-2125 or submit an anonymous tip by texting BEVHILLSPD followed by the tip information to 888777.

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**Media Relations**

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**Public Information Officer**

Lieutenant Max Subin

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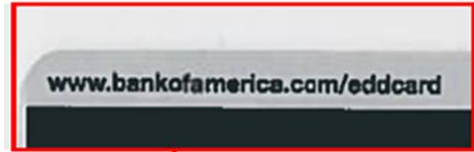
**24-Hour**

Watch Commander

(310) 285-2125

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**Employment Development Department (EDD) card:**



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**Evidence obtained from a recent arrest:**

