

HARBOR

Gotcha!

Port Police uncover counterfeit electronics operation, seize \$10 million in fake goods, stolen merchandise and bank receipts.

Story courtesy Port of Los Angeles

More than \$10 million in counterfeit electronics, stolen merchandise and bank receipts were recovered as a result of a cargo theft investigation initiated by the Port Police. Counterfeit Apple products have been seized, a downtown Los Angeles counterfeiting operation behind the fake goods was shut down and felony charges have been filed against two suspects.

The counterfeit goods included electronics that resembled Apple iPods and iPhones. The electronic devices were shipped from Asia, then falsely labeled and packaged in Los Angeles. The \$2.5 million in stolen goods that were recovered include electronics, toys and blankets stolen from various locations in Los Angeles County and the Inland Empire.

"Our layered, multi-agency approach to security and theft investigations led to success in this

significant discovery," said Port Police Chief Ronald Boyd, Club Member. "We're proud of the teamwork that happens on a continuous basis to thwart consumer fraud, keep our Port safe and enable our agencies to pursue cases to fruition and criminal prosecution."

"Our standing as the largest shipping container port in the country is in no small part predicated on the security we can offer our clients," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "Counterfeiting takes jobs and revenue away from our City's coveted creative industries and other legitimate businesses, and it will not be tolerated."

Port Police worked on the investigation as part of the Cargo Theft Interdiction Program (CTIP), a California Highway Patrol initiative that includes participation from the Port Police and the City of Vernon Police Department. The counterfeit investigation is being jointly conducted by Homeland Security Investigations (HIS) and Port Police. The Border Enforcement



Some of the counterfeit items seized as part of the Port Police's sting operation.

Security Taskforce (BEST), comprised of federal, state and local agencies, also played a role in the investigation.

The case stems from a stolen cargo investigation that led the Port Police to several downtown Los Angeles locations in December and January. During searches of the locations, Port Police discovered counterfeit products with an estimated

street value of more than \$1.4 million, stolen goods worth approximately \$2.5 million and bank account receipts that indicate profits from the sale of counterfeit merchandise estimated to be more than \$7 million.

Two brothers, both from Los Angeles, have been charged in the case, according to the Port report.



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REC AND PARKS

Banning Fundraiser Set for April

Friends of Banning Museum to Hold Annual Fundraiser on April 2, 2011

Friends of Banning Museum announced that its annual fundraising event, the Wisteria Regale, will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2011, from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel, 2800 Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro.

This festive evening will feature a silent auction, dinner, hosted bar, live music and dancing. A highlight of the event will be the crowning of the Wisteria King and Queen: two Banning High School students who presented the winning entries in an essay contest held by Friends of Banning Museum. Each winner will also receive a scholarship for their achievement.

Reservations are required for the Wisteria Regale, and the cost is \$150 per person. Please call Friends of Banning Museum at (310) 548-2005 for further information or to make a reservation. Reservations can also be made via The Banning Museum website, www.thebanningmuseum.org. For guests who may wish to make this event part of a getaway weekend, the Doubletree Hotel is offering a special room rate on April 2nd for those attending the Wisteria Regale. Please contact the hotel directly at (310) 514-3344 for more information.

Proceeds from the Wisteria Regale will assist Friends of Banning Museum, a non-profit corporation, in its mission to "Preserve History, Promote Education, and Inspire Entrepreneurial Spirit."

The Banning Museum is a facility of the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks and is operated in cooperation with the Friends of Banning Museum.

