

Date: December 18, 2019
Time: 10:00 AM

From the Office of:
Kyle Murphy, Chief of Police

MEDIA RELEASE

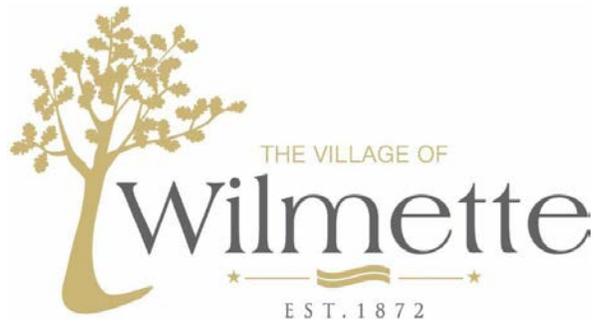
Retail Theft / Stolen Property Fencing Investigation

The Wilmette Police Department with the assistance of the Evanston Police Department and the CVS Organized Retail Crime Team concluded an 11 month undercover investigation into a sophisticated retail theft fencing operation. The investigation began after retail thefts in Wilmette led to the identification of a fencing ring for stolen merchandise operating in Chicago. This involved the suspects taking in stolen retail products including over the counter medications which they would then sell via online stores.

On Monday December 16, 2019, the Wilmette Police with the assistance of the Evanston and Chicago Police Departments, CVS Organized Retail Theft Crime Team and the Illinois Department of Revenue Criminal Investigations Division, executed eleven search warrants in Chicago and one in Oak Park resulting in the recovery of an estimated 2 million dollars' worth of retail products and evidence of a sophisticated criminal enterprise.

Merchandise stolen from retail establishments throughout the Chicagoland area and surrounding suburbs was brought to the defendants by retail theft offenders. The defendants knowingly purchased the stolen property at their storefront locations in Chicago. The defendants brought the stolen merchandise to various locations throughout Chicago and one location in Oak Park, IL where they removed identifying retailer information from the items. The defendants then sold the stolen items via online stores for profit. The defendants established numerous accounts with multiple banks and financial institutions in attempts to conceal the origin of the funds and utilized the illegal proceeds to make purchases including multiple residential properties and continue their financial crimes enterprise.

The following subjects were charged:



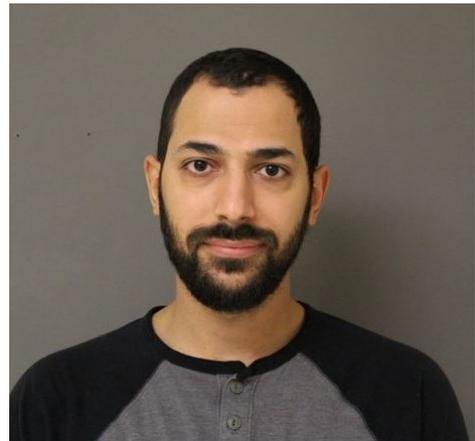
Name: Esam Abdelhavez
M/W, 42 YOA
5311 W. Cornelia Ave.
Chicago, IL

Charges: Continuing Financial Crimes Enterprise
Money Laundering



Name: Hany Abdelhavez
M/W, 31 YOA
623 S. Lombard
Oak Park, IL

Charges: Felony Theft
Money Laundering



Name: Mostfa Abdelmalek Abdelhavis
M/W, 33 YOA
6419 Irving Park Rd.
Chicago, IL

Charges: Continuing Financial Crimes Enterprise
Money Laundering

