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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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Prolific Thief Sentenced for Stealing Thousands in Merchandise from Retailers

Defendant Stole Over \$16,000 in Sports Goods in One Month

San Diego County District Attorney <u>Summer Stephan</u> said today that a 27-year-old man who went on a stealing rampage in South County has been sentenced to six years in state prison on multiple felony counts of organized retail theft and robbery.

Edgar Figueroa pleaded guilty on March 28 to two counts of organized retail theft and one count of robbery for his role in stealing \$16,300 in shoes and other merchandise from the Nike store at the Las Americas Premium Outlets, Dick's Sporting Goods in Chula Vista and Burlington in Chula Vista on multiple dates in February. Figueroa also pleaded guilty to one count of organized retail theft for his role in stealing an additional \$3,050 worth of merchandise from the Nike store in Carlsbad in January.

"The era of chronic theft in San Diego County is coming to an end and it is high time for thieves to be held accountable under the law," DA Stephan said. "Thanks to the passage of Proposition 36, we don't have to stand by while businesses suffer under the crushing weight of repeat theft that steals their livelihood and threatens the safety of their employees and customers."

Figueroa's theft spree came to an end on March 16, when he was loading up merchandise in a duffel bag at Dick's Sporting Goods and he was recognized as a chronic thief. An employee called Chula Vista Police who responded quickly to detain Figueroa, who was a wanted suspect identified in a robbery that happened at Burlington on February 17. On that date, Figueroa worked with three other suspects to steal \$1,684 worth of merchandise. He pointed a firearm at an employee who inquired about the stolen merchandise and his accomplice threatened the employee with a Taser.

Figueroa was a leader in a crew of at least six suspects who helped commit each of the thefts. On several occasions, the thieves attempted to change their appearance when returning to stores they had previously targeted. Thanks to the diligence of store employees and law enforcement, the remaining suspects have been identified and are being prosecuted for their roles in the theft ring.



Deputy District Attorney Gentre Martinez prosecuted this case.

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About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office

The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue fair and equal justice, and support victims daily across San Diego County.