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For Immediate Release

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District Attorney Summer Stephan, RATT Team Seek Public's Help in Identifying Stolen Property, Additional Victims of Auto Theft Crime Spree

2 Arrested, More than 140 Items of Stolen Property, Over 53 Victims

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) today asked for the public's help in identifying potential victims of an auto theft crime spree in which hundreds of items of suspected stolen property have been recovered. As part of an auto theft investigation initiated by the Regional Auto Theft Task Force (RATT) in Chula Vista, two defendants were arrested and charged in the case involving more than 50 victims.

“Auto theft and burglaries have a direct impact on victims who often need their vehicles to get to work, take their children to school and conduct their daily lives,” said District Attorney Summer Stephan. **“Ultimately, this crime spree affected dozens of people across San Diego County and in addition to holding the defendants accountable we’re working with our partners at RATT to return large amounts of stolen property to victims.”**

On March 27, the Chula Vista Police Department contacted the RATT team regarding a stolen vehicle parked inside a motel parking lot. RATT detectives responded to the motel to investigate and arrested two suspects, with assistance by the Chula Vista Police and San Diego County Sheriff. As the result of the arrest, RATT detectives recovered [144 items of suspected stolen property](#), including cell phones, IDs, credit cards, purses, and a computer laptop. Over the course of the investigation, RATT detectives identified a total of four stolen vehicles and more than 53 victims believed to be connected to the crime spree. More than 40 vehicles were burglarized during the crime spree over the course of several days across the county.

EDITORS: Photos of some of the items recovered can be viewed [here](#).
DA Summer Stephan will be available for interviews. Contact Barbara Medina: barbara.medina@sdca.org

“These were crimes of opportunities,” said RATT Commander, CHP Captain James Portilla. “To help prevent theft you should always lock your doors and close your windows; and never leave valuable items visible in your car.”

Detectives have been able to identify less than half of the 53 potential victims they believe are connected to this crime spree and are asking for the public's help in identifying additional victims. Victims would have had their vehicles burglarized during the last two weeks of March 2018 in the following areas of San Diego County:

- Downtown San Diego
- Tierra Santa
- Mission Valley
- Mid-City of San Diego
- Spring Valley
- San Diego State College area
- National City
- Chula Vista
- Imperial Beach

On April 10, Malcolm Brown, 22, pleaded guilty to vehicle theft and residential burglary, and Alexis Carr, 25, pleaded guilty to auto theft and burglary. The pair is scheduled to be sentenced on May 8 at 1:30 pm in Department 1102 of the San Diego Superior Court Central Division.

If you believe you are one of these victims please contact the San Diego County Regional Auto Theft Task Force at (858) 627-4000.

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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 justice and support victims daily across San Diego County. DA Summer Stephan has devoted her life to protecting children and families and providing justice to the voiceless and most vulnerable. She is a national leader in the fight against sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and has served as a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego County for 28 years.

About the Regional Auto Theft Task Force (RATT)

The mission of San Diego County's Regional Auto Theft Task Force (RATT) is to collaborate effectively to reduce the incidence of vehicle and cargo theft and increase the arrests and prosecution of professional thieves using regional pro-active investigative methods and public education. The task force is led by the California Highway Patrol and members include the San Diego County District Attorney's Office; San Diego County Sheriff's Department; the police departments in San Diego, Chula Vista, National City and La Mesa; the United States Border Patrol; ICE; the Department of Motor Vehicles; California Department of Insurance; National Insurance Crime Bureau; and the San Diego County Probation Department.

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