



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

2825 Municipal Way Tallahassee, FL 32304

www.leoncountysos.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Angela Green-Sherrod

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LCSO Makes Arrests in Organized Crime Ring Spanning Southern U.S.

Leon County Sheriff's Office detectives have identified and apprehended three suspects responsible for a commercial burglary in the 6700 block of Thomasville Road in September 2023. The burglary resulted in the theft of over \$50,000 worth of items and approximately \$15,000 in property damage. The investigation uncovered the trio's involvement in an organized crime network based in south Florida, carrying out similar burglaries across the southern United States.

The diligent efforts of LCSO Property Crimes detectives, coupled with collaborative initiatives from multiple agencies, resulted in the arrest of three individuals identified as brothers 31-year-old Yamil Lopez and 38-year-old Randy Lopez, in addition to 33-year-old Lazaro Mesa.

All three suspects face multiple charges related to Burglary of a Structure, Grand Theft, Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle and Tampering with Evidence.

LCSO's Property Crimes detectives, backed by teamwork from multiple law enforcement agencies, not only solved the Thomasville Road case but also solved multiple cases in other areas linked to the criminal organization.

The Capital Region Real Time Crime Center, with the help of the Intel and Crime Scene units within the Leon County Sheriff's Office played a vital role in solving this case, showing the power of teamwork within the agency.

Residents and businesses are urged to stay vigilant and report anything suspicious to law enforcement. LCSO offers free Security Surveys for homeowners and Commercial Security Surveys for businesses, conducted by certified Crime Prevention Practitioners. For more information on these programs and community safety initiatives, contact the Community Relations Unit at (850) 606-3272 or email lsocpu@leoncountyfl.gov.

Angela Green-Sherrod, Public Information Officer
Office (850) 606-3303

green@leoncountyfl.gov

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