



Ready to Protect, Proud to Serve

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# Media Release



Roberto A. Villaseñor

Chief of Police

Date: July 27, 2011

Contact: Sgt. Matt Ronstadt

## ARREST OF SCAM ARTIST

On July 22, 2011, a yearlong investigation that involved over 50 cases in Tucson, Pima County, and the Phoenix area culminated in the arrest of **41-year old Ronald G. Rodriguez**, of Tucson.

In July of 2010, the Tucson Police Department Fraud Unit began receiving reports of a fraud scheme involving a subject portraying himself as a corporate manager of the victim businesses in order to perpetrate his crime. The suspect targeted convenience stores and restaurant that were open late at night or 24-hours, and his actions were similar enough that a trend was identified and the cases were investigated as a series of connected incidents. During the crimes, the suspect would convince an on-duty employee of a business that he was a high-ranking manager or owner of the company in order to gain their confidence. Once this was accomplished, the suspect would obtain cash and sometimes merchandise from the employee. To date, over \$25,000 in stolen cash and merchandise has been attributed to this suspect.

Throughout this ongoing investigation, the Tucson Police Department Fraud Unit and Major Theft Offenders Unit worked closely with the Pima County Sheriffs Department, the Mesa, Gilbert, Tempe, and Phoenix Police Departments, and the Arizona Attorney Generals Office in developing leads, identifying potential suspects, and preparing for prosecution. On July 22, 2011, an arrest warrant was obtained through the Arizona Attorney Generals Office, charging Rodriguez with six felony counts relating to Fraudulent Schemes and Artifices. The US Marshals Office provided key assistance with locating and apprehending Rodriguez in the Phoenix area within hours of the arrest warrant being obtained. Rodriguez is currently awaiting extradition to Tucson.

(Page 1 of 2)

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.



**Ronald G. Rodriguez**

(Page 2 of 2)

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