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# Media Release



Roberto A. Villaseñor

Chief of Police

Date: August 4, 2011

Contact: Sgt. Matt Ronstadt

## SERIAL METAL THEFT ARRESTS

On August 4, 2011, the Tucson Police Department's Major Theft Offenders Unit (MTOU) arrested two suspects in a series of metal theft cases. The cases primarily involved the theft of large metal storm drain grates taken from the roadway.

In early-June 2011, the MTOU, which also investigates metal thefts, began receiving reports of the theft of large storm drain grates. These grates protect the storm drains from clogging with large debris and also provide for public safety to prevent people, animals, and vehicles from falling into the large drain openings. In some cases, descriptions of two males wearing reflective traffic safety vests and seen pulling the grates from the roadway and loading them in a pickup truck, were provided by witnesses. MTOU personnel conferred with the Marana Police Department and the Pima County Sheriffs Department and determined that both of those agencies had received reports of similar thefts, and that the basic suspect description was similar.

In mid-June 2011, security personnel at a business in the 7300 block of East Rosewood observed similar suspicious activity. They were able to obtain a description and a license plate number for the vehicle. In early-July 2011, an anonymous citizen reported to construction crews that they had seen subjects removing metal trench-shoring materials from a site near East Golf Links Road and North Kolb Road. Further, the citizen provided information that the materials had been sold to The Scrap Yard, a metal recycling business near East Ajo Way and South Country Club Road. Management at The Scrap Yard cooperated with investigators and provided information, which confirmed the sale of stolen storm grates and assisted in the identification of both suspects.

The suspects, identified as **23-year old Douglas Maness**, of Pima County, and **22-year old Matthew McClellan**, of Pima County, were both charged with **two counts of Theft and three counts of Trafficking in Stolen Property**, in connection with the thefts in the City of Tucson. They were booked into the Pima County Jail.

The investigation is ongoing and additional charges are anticipated.

The Tucson Police Department urges anyone with information about this case to contact **911** or **88-CRIME**.

(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.



**Douglas Maness**



**Matthew McClellan**

(Page 2 of 2)

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