



DenverDA

Mitchell R. Morrissey, District Attorney - Second Judicial District
201 W. Colfax Avenue, Dept. 801, Denver, CO 80202

Bus. Phone: 720-913-9000
Fax: 720-913-9035



DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Lynn Kimbrough, 720-913-9025 or Sonny Jackson, 720-913-6534

AUTO THEFT RING INDICTMENT

A Denver Grand Jury has returned a 24-count indictment charging 7 people in connection with an auto theft ring. On December 12, 2007, the day the indictment was handed down, 5 of these individuals were arrested by the members of several units of the Denver Police Department. This operation included members of Districts One and Two, DPD Pattern Crimes Unit and several SCAT teams. The two remaining suspects surrendered to police.

The indictment has charged the following defendants:

Jose Banelos (DOB: 10-29-1987) is charged with *violation of Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (F2), conspiracy to commit theft by receiving (F5), conspiracy to commit vehicular eluding (F6), contributing to a delinquency of a minor, x3 (F4), conspiracy to commit second-degree assault on a peace officer (F5), and theft by receiving x7 (F4)*. His bond is set at \$500,000.

Juan Banelos (DOB: 08-26-1983) is charged with *violation of Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (F2), conspiracy to commit theft by receiving (F5), conspiracy to commit vehicular eluding (F6), contributing to the delinquency of a minor, x3 (F4), vehicular eluding (F5), theft by receiving, x3 (F4), and theft by receiving (M1)*. His bond is set at \$500,000.

Manuel Paez-Bautista (DOB: 06-12-1983) is charged with *conspiracy to commit theft by receiving (F5)*. His bond is set at \$50,000.

Ernesto Robles (DOB: 07-19-1989) is charged with *conspiracy to commit theft by receiving (F5), possession of burglary tools (F5), vehicular eluding (F5), first-degree aggravated motor vehicle theft (F4), attempted second-degree assault (F5), and conspiracy to commit second-degree assault on a peace officer (F5)*. His bond is set at \$100,000.

Luis Mendoza (DOB: 01-03-1989) is charged with *conspiracy to commit theft by receiving (F5) and conspiracy to commit vehicular eluding (F6)*. His bond is set at \$200,000.

Jose Francisco Gael Arteaga-Muro (DOB: 07-18-1983) is charged with *conspiracy to commit theft by receiving* (F5), *theft by receiving, x2* (F4), and *theft by receiving* (M1). His bond is set at \$10,000.

Juan Delacruz (DOB: 07-17-1979) is charged with *conspiracy to commit theft by receiving* (F5), *conspiracy to commit vehicular eluding* (F6), and *conspiracy to commit second-degree assault on a peace officer* (F5). His bond is set at \$100,000.

The indictment was a result of a 5 month investigation by the Denver District Attorney's Office, the Denver Police Department – District One and District Two, and the DPD Pattern Crimes Unit.

The indictment alleges that the individuals were operating a car theft ring as a criminal enterprise, in violation of Colorado's Organized Crime Control Act. The thefts allegedly occurred in Denver, Aurora, Lakewood, Westminster, Northglenn, Commerce City, and Thornton. Stolen trucks and SUVs were allegedly used by the defendants to then steal and re-sell high-end chrome rims and tires.

Four of the defendants had been arrested and charged earlier; those charges will be dismissed now that the indictment has been issued.

Jose Banuelos, Juan Baneulos, Manuel Paez-Bautista, Ernesto Robles, and Luis Mendoza are scheduled to appear in Denver District Court, Division 1, on January 7, 2008, at 8:30 a.m.

Jose Francisco Gael Arteaga-Muro is scheduled to appear in Denver District Court, Division 1, on December 18, 2007, at 8:30 a.m.

Juan Delacruz is scheduled to appear in Denver District Court, Division 1, on December 19, 2007, at 8:30 a.m.