



Coalition of Law Enforcement And Retail

Issue 31 - April 2015

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Planning for the 2015 CLEAR Conference

We are already planning for the 2015 CLEAR Conference. We are looking for speakers, of for suggestions on what topics YOU would like to see during the conference. If you have been to another conference recently and have seen an especially engaging speaker—let us know and we will attempt to book them for our conference.

If you have a topic that you would like us to have a presentation about—let us know that too. With over 2,000 members, we probably have someone with the expertise to present on just

NRF joins forces with CLEAR to fight ORC

Organized retail crime is in the sights of a new alliance that strengthens the already solid ties between the retail industry and law enforcement agencies around the country, including some at the federal level.

"This is what I'd call a strategic alliance," says Robert Moraca, NRF vice president of loss prevention, in describing the working relationship with the [Coalition of Law Enforcement and Retail](#). "Locally, we want to hook up retailers with law enforcement. We work to combat crime, to get criminals off the streets so they know there are consequences for their actions."

For its part, CLEAR sees the alliance with NRF as furthering its own aims, says **Curt Crum, CLEAR President and manager of special services with the criminal investigation division of the Boise (Idaho) Police Department**. Crum was elected President of CLEAR last October.

"Like any good collaboration, we want to determine what goals we have in common and then share resources and talent to meet those common goals," he says. "We are very early in the process with NRF, so many details and [an] overall direction have yet to be determined."

A major aim for CLEAR is to facilitate cooperation between retailers and law enforcement. "We want to do our jobs and in doing so, encourage more law enforcement involvement with the NRF, more retail involvement with the police-based groups," says Crum. "We were originally created by detectives and retail investigators, not by chiefs and managers. We wish to fill the gap ... for the people who are working the streets, the stores and the people who actually have to deal with the culprits on a day-to-day basis."

Organized crime is a major focus for the two organizations. "It's organized crime, and it was organized crime before it was organized retail crime," says Moraca, adding that most ORC practitioners are also involved in other activities like drug dealing and crimes of violence. "When they move into retail theft, they're just adding another crime."

Law enforcement has realized that career criminals are now committing organized retail crimes. "When we catch them committing retail crimes, the fruits and evidence of other crimes are commonly discovered as well," Crum says, "resulting in numerous additional felony charges. Our partnerships with retail loss prevention have led to arrests for everything including homicide, armed robbery, narcotics trafficking, burglary, aggravated assault, vehicle theft, sexual abuse of a child and sexual assault."





A National Association

US Attorney Barbara McQuade announces indictments in string of Jewelry store Smash and Grab Robberies across the country

From D & D Daily 2/27/15 and WXYZ.com

CLEAR **Mission:**

Build and support partnership across all investigative channels, accomplished through open communication and networking, training together toward the further development of the investigator and lastly, by supporting that legislation which strengthens laws related to property crimes.

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A gang of six alleged jewelry store thieves was indicted late Thursday in a smash-and-grab robbery, the latest in a string of daring heists that will be the focus of a Friday morning news conference. In the latest indictment, six people were charged with conspiring to rob the Lux Bond & Green jewelry store in West Hartford, Conn., on Oct. 8. The U.S. Attorney's Office, FBI and other law enforcement agencies are expected to discuss the indictment and other smash-and-grab robberies, including one at Tapper's Diamonds & Fine Jewelry in West Bloomfield Township, MI last year, during the news conference Friday in downtown Detroit. They will highlight the trend of smash-and-grab robberies nationwide, and involving suspects from Metro Detroit, that has cost jewelers millions in Rolex watches and other valuables. In all, 17 people have been charged in a series of 40 robberies in New York, Maryland, North Carolina, Mississippi, Nebraska and Connecticut. The six people coordinated the Connecticut robbery and used sledgehammers to steal jewelry, according to the indictment. The six people charged are Ernie Thomas Evans, Darrick Adams, Brandon Mayes, Bria Jackson, Shaquita Wyatt and Bria Stanford. The six were indicted on a robbery conspiracy charge, a 20-year felony. The case dates to August 2014 when FBI agents started investigating a series of jewelry store robberies across the Midwest and East Coast.

Note - Conference attended by CLEAR Board of Directors National Training Co-Director—Mark Neapolitan (second from the left)





'Rental car' traffic stop produces two gift card scam suspects in Garner, N.C.

by Derick Waller, WNCN News March 11, 2015

GARNER, N.C. -

Police in Garner are issuing a warning about a gift card scam that uses people's private credit card information.

Dominic Speaks and Daron James were arrested in Garner after police found several Visa gift cards **inside their rental car during a traffic stop** in January.

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Police were able to use technology provided by the U.S. Secret Service to learn that the cards had been manipulated to hold stolen credit card information. Police said the cards had been mechanically altered to look like real credit cards with real people's names.

The magnetic stripes were encoded with stolen information.

"They will buy a [gift] card. They'll use the value of it. They'll then alter it and put someone's stolen information on it and they'll go buy other gift cards," said Lt. Chris Clayton with the Garner Police Department.

Police say criminals often obtain stolen credit card information from data breaches and by using skimming software that can be attached to card readers, often at places like self-serve gas stations and car washes where there is no attendant monitoring the activity.

Experts say the magnetic strip is notoriously easy to counterfeit. That's why U.S. banks are increasingly moving toward encrypted so-called "chip and pin" technology that's already commonplace across Europe.

"The magnetic strip that's used on the back of our credit cards is sort of an antiquated piece of technology," N.C. Retail Merchants Association President Andy Ellen told WNCN in 2014.

"Using the chip with the smart card technology that's tied to the pin could have stopped a lot of that activity after that breach," Ellen said, referring to the Target data breach that happened in late 2013.

Police say consumers can protect themselves now by being alert. They suggest people check their bank statements on a regular basis and use a credit card, with fraud protection, for large purchases, instead of a debit card.





CLEAR Team connecting and collaborating with public and private sector partners at the 2015 eBay Connect & Collaborate Summit

Congratulations to CLEAR Board

Director Millie Kreseovich

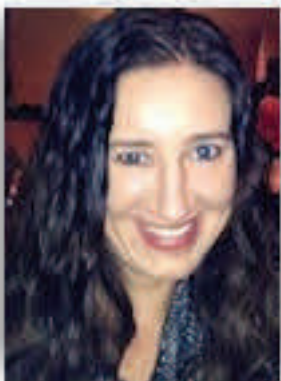
From D & D Daily

Millie was recently promoted to Director, Asset Protection for Luxottica

Millie has been with Luxottica for 13 years. Her previous role with the retailer was Senior Regional Manager, Asset Protection. Prior to that, Millie held loss prevention positions at Office Max and K-Mart. She holds a bachelor's degree in Social Psychology from Park University and a master's degree in Business Ethics and Compliance from the New England College of Business and Finance.



From a Loss Prevention Magazine article dated January 25, 2015 - CLEAR Vice President Rich Rossman was quoted:



"While others in the online space hide behind emails and do not partner, eBay has a strong track record of helping both retailers and law enforcement. They are a trusted partner."

— Sergeant Richard Rossman,
Broward Sheriff's Office





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Newsletter edited
by [Dave Collins](#)



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Christopher Ortiz Sergeant at Seminole County Sheriff's Office Manager's Choice

F.O.R.C.E. ORC Holiday Investigators Workshop, Wednesday December 7th 8am-3pm at Seminole County Sheriff's Office South Region location, 120 W Pineview St, Altamonte Springs, FL.

Thank You CLEAR for our continued partnership. This year's annual ORC Holiday Workshop was moved forward to December 7th to accommodate other events and meetings associated with F.O.R.C.E. partners. We have secured some very... [more](#)

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Maine Committee Endorses Expansion of Retail Theft Crime

By [MAL LEARY](#) · MAR 18, 2015 MBPN NEWS

AUGUSTA, Maine — The Legislature's Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee has unanimously endorsed a compromise plan that would create a new crime aimed at dealing with serial theft in stores. "It's a huge problem, I mean, you hear about it on the news every day," says Republican Sen. Kim Rosen of Bucksport, who co-chairs the committee. "Coming from New Hampshire and out of state, and just little groups of people going in and sweeping through and stealing things."

The panel narrowed the definition of what constitutes serial theft. The definition is two separate thefts in two different stores. The original language was broader and worried several committee members that it could have unintended consequences such as a young couple committing a one-time theft spree ending up with a felony record.

"It would include like, a girlfriend-boyfriend committing a crime and it would be a class C crime, and they just didn't want to see that happen," Rosen says. "So if someone has committed two different crimes in two different stores, they just made it more specific."

The new measure would have a penalty of up to five years in prison.

Suspect says she is 'addicted to stealing like someone is addicted to crack'

By Fox 12 Oregon [KPTV-KPDx Broadcasting Corporation](#)

PORTLAND, OR (KPTV) -A woman accused of stealing multiple wallets over several months from the Louis Vuitton store in downtown Portland told police she is "addicted to stealing just like someone is addicted to crack," according to court documents.

Sharajae Huff, 21, was arrested at Pioneer Square Mall, 700 S.W. 5th Ave., on Monday.

A Louis Vuitton employee called police after recognizing the woman in the store. According to court documents, the employee believed she had been responsible for numerous recent thefts from the business.

The value of the items stolen was \$2,790, according to a probable cause affidavit.

A detective then asked Huff about another theft case on Jan. 19. Court documents state she admitted stealing a \$715 wallet on that day from Louis Vuitton.

She also admitted stealing a \$905 wallet from the store on March 9, the affidavit states. According to court documents, surveillance images showed her stuffing the wallet up her shirt.

Her family says they are saddened by her arrest, and knew nothing about her stealing.

"Sharajae is a wonderful person, and she really didn't have to steal, I don't know why it has to come to this point with her," said her stepmother Sharon King.

"I don't know if she has that addiction, she probably has done it many times before, but I don't think she has an addiction. My thoughts are that she needs help," added King.

Court documents state Huff has prior theft convictions in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.



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CLEAR

Sixth Annual Training Conference

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2015

2:00pm – 4:30pm
2:30pm – 4:30pm
4:30pm – 6:00pm
7:00pm – 9:00pm

Board of Directors Meeting
Vendor Exhibit Set up
Pre-registration and Vendor Exhibits
Welcome Reception – Hospitality Room

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015

7:15am – 8:00am
8:00am – 5:00pm

Registration
Conference and Vendor Exhibits

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015

8:00am – 5:00pm

Conference and Vendor Exhibits

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015

8:00am – 12:00pm

Conference and Vendor Exhibits

On line registration available at www.clearusa.org.

For more information, please call

Mitzi Perry – 727-893-7592 mitzi.perry@stpete.org

Curt Crum – 208-570-6232 Ccrum@cityofboise.org



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