PRESS RELEASE

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CHP ARRESTS LOS ANGELES WOMAN IN MILLION-DOLLAR ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT RING

LOS ANGELES – A Los Angeles woman has been arrested on multiple charges, including organized retail theft, grand theft, and possession of stolen property. Her arrest was connected to an organized retail theft ring that targeted several retailers in Southern California, including CVS, Sephora, Ulta Beauty, Rite Aid, Nordstrom, and the 99 Cents Only Store.

On Dec. 19, 2023, investigators assigned to the California Highway Patrol's (CHP) Organized Retail Crime Taskforce served a search warrant at a warehouse in the city of Paramount, Calif. and at The Makeup Store, located on Whittier Boulevard in Los Angeles. Investigators discovered stolen cosmetics and other related items from several retail establishments at both locations. In addition to the stolen property, tools used to remove retail anti-theft devices were located. Loss prevention investigators from various retailers were on-scene to assist in identifying the stolen merchandise. Early estimates from loss prevention personnel estimated the value of the stolen merchandise recovered at over a million dollars.

As a result of this investigation, Brenda Yanez, 48, of Los Angeles was arrested and booked for charges related to organized retail theft, grand theft, and receiving stolen property.

CHP investigators will continue to work proactively with our loss prevention partners, allied agencies, and prosecutors through the holidays to combat organized retail crime throughout California.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.

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