



## PRESS RELEASE

*Date: September 16, 2009*

# Davis Police looking for Con Artists Selling Diamonds

The Davis Police Department is trying to get the word out about a team of con artists who approached a citizen in Davis and stole \$3,000 from her.

### The Con

On September 11, 2009, the victim was approached and asked directions by a Female Suspect while she was entering Kaiser Hospital in Davis. The Male Suspect then approached and acted as if he were helping the victim give directions to the Female Suspect.

During the exchange, the Female Suspect presented five loose diamonds from her purse and asked to sell them. The Male Suspect told the victim that he had a friend inside of Kaiser who was a part time jewelry appraiser and took the diamonds inside of the Hospital while the victim waited with the Female Suspect. When the Male Suspect returned from inside of the Hospital, he claimed that the part time jewelry appraiser valued each diamond at \$11,000 each. (Upon further investigation it was revealed that there was no part time jewelry appraiser) The Female Suspect then offered to sell each diamond for \$7,000 each.

The Male Suspect convinced the victim that they should purchase one diamond and split the cost. After negotiating with the Female Suspect, it was agreed that the Male Suspect and the victim would purchase one diamond for \$6,000.

The Suspect convinced the victim to drive to her bank and withdraw \$3,000 from her account and return to pay the Female Suspect. When the transaction was complete, the Female Suspect asked for a ride to a nearby shopping center to meet someone. The Male Suspect agreed to wait

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at Kaiser with the diamond until the victim returned. When the victim returned the Male Suspect had fled the scene. Two Diamonds were later discovered in the victim's car and they were determined to be fake.

Since the victim was over 65 years old this case is also being listed as an elder abuse.

The Female Suspect was described as 50 -60 year old Hispanic Female with dark skin. She was about 5'6", 150 lbs with a medium build. She wore beige/black short sleeved blouse with dark brown knit pants. The female subject also wore a brown knit beanie with dark sunglasses so hair and eye color were never seen.

The male subject was described as 30-35 year old Hispanic male with light brown skin. He was about 5-8, 185 pounds with short brown hair and green eyes. The subject wore a light beige short sleeved t-shirt with a small unknown logo on the center.

The Davis Police Department would like anyone who may have been approached in a similar fashion or who may be a witness to this incident to contact the Davis Police Department Investigation's Division.

The Davis Police Department would also like to advise citizens who are approached by individuals who invite them to take part in a business deal, financial investment or any transaction that involves transfer of money to be aware of scam artists. Citizens should be cautious and avoid being victimized in "spur of the moment" transactions with strangers. If it appears to be too good to be true...it usually is.

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