FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: Fullerton Police Arrest Residential Burglars with help from Vigilant Neighbor

Date: July 30, 2015
Contact: Lieutenant Andrew Goodrich
(714) 738-4115
agoodrich@fullertonpd.org

On Monday, July 27 2015, two men knocked on the door of a residence in the 2000 block of Via Mirada in Fullerton, and when no one answered, they went into the backyard. The two men tried to open a back door but were scared away by dogs that were in the house. The resident called 911 and gave dispatchers a description of the suspects and their vehicle.

Fullerton PD dispatchers broadcast the call and a nearby officer saw a similar vehicle and made a car stop. The passenger ran away on foot, but was later captured hiding under a wood pile. When officers checked the car, they found stolen property from at least two other residential burglaries in the area.

Arrested were Michael Billingsly, 35 from Los Angeles, and Evan Blakely, also 35 from Los Angeles. They were charged with suspicion of burglary, possession of stolen property and other charges. Both suspects were booked into the Fullerton Jail, and later transported to Orange County Jail, where they remain in-custody.

This incident is an example of “knock-knock bandits”. This is when suspects will knock on the doors of potential victims, and if they answer, feign some reason for being in the area. When no one answers, they will either force open the front door, or go around to the back. Police departments in the region have noted an increase in this type of crime in recent years.

The Fullerton Police Department reminds residents to be vigilant in their neighborhoods and not to hesitate in calling the police when they see suspicious activity. Fullerton Police detectives believe that Billingsly and Blakely are responsible for at least four residential burglaries in Fullerton, and are linked to several more in Los Angeles County. Anyone with information on this case should call the Fullerton Police Department at (714) 738-6800 or Detective Ginny Johnson at (714) 738-6880. Those wishing to provide information anonymously can call the Orange County Crime Stoppers at 1(855) TIP-OCCS or to their website at www.crimestoppers.org.

Editor’s Note: Mug shots of Michael Billingsly and Evan Blakely attached