***Media Relations Information for 05/15/2012***

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**Surveillance efforts by LPPD Detectives result in pair of Felony Theft arrests**

During the early morning hours of Saturday May 12th, members of La Porte Police Department’s Street Crimes Division carried out a targeted surveillance effort along an area warehousing complex located in the 100 block of La Porte’s Old Underwood Road. Through their efforts, and assistance from the agency’s Patrol Division, the operation resulted in the arrest of a pair of suspects, both charged with Felony Theft.

Arrestees, 29 year old Tacho Zuniga and 49 year old Terry Smith, of Houston, were observed by undercover investigators entering the warehouse area shortly after 3:00 a.m. The pair drove an older model pickup truck into the gated area after providing a correct access code, then quickly turning off the vehicle headlights. The suspects immediately drove in between a series of large box trucks and emerged after several minutes with obvious equipment having been added to the truck bed. Undercover detectives immediately alerted awaiting marked patrol units, which stopped the vehicle and it’s of occupants. Company representatives were contacted and all items were identified as not only belonging to the company, but holding a significant value in excess of $25,000.

As a result of the arrests, and subsequent investigative efforts, La Porte detectives were able to connect Zuniga and Smith to at least six prior industrial thefts from the area with an estimated accumulative value of $180,000.

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**Tacho Zuniga Terry Smith**

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