

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

VA Long Beach
Healthcare System

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VA Law Enforcement Arrest VA Clerk for Potential Identity Theft

LONG BEACH, Calif. – While performing routine patrols on the campus of the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center, VA law enforcement came across a personal vehicle with what appeared to be commercial license plates attached. After running the plates and the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), officers determined the attached plates did not belong to the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. While interviewing the vehicle's driver, an alert officer noticed an unlabeled pill container with various pills inside and conducted a search on the vehicle. The search found gabapentin pills for which the driver had no prescription and private VA patient information on numerous Veterans including names, dates of birth and full Social Security numbers.

After the initial arrest, VA law enforcement obtained a search warrant which ultimately yielded over \$1,031 in recovered federal property and an additional amount of private VA patient information being recovered. In total approximately 1,028 Veterans information was found outside of VA control. While there is no indication of any Veteran identification information being used fraudulently, VA will send letters to all 1,030 potentially impacted Veterans and provide 12 months of free credit monitoring services.

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