

# HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE  
2016-0262

HONOR ◊ COURAGE ◊ INTEGRITY

## Two Arrested in Connection with an Auto-Theft Ring



**David Martinez**  
Age 26  
Harlingen Resident



**Juan Francisco Baez-Zuniga**  
Age 39  
Brownsville Resident

Over the last two months the Harlingen Police Department has been investigating several stolen vehicle cases in the Harlingen area. The thieves were targeting Chrysler products, specifically Dodge pick-ups, Jeep Wranglers and Jeep Cherokees. Members of the Harlingen Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division, Major Crimes Unit, the Organized Crime Unit and our Federal Law Enforcement partners conducted an extensive investigation into the circumstances surrounding the thefts. On Friday, December 9, 2016, the investigation resulted in two arrests in connection with an Auto-Theft ring that has been active in the Harlingen area and throughout the State. David Martinez of Harlingen and Juan Francisco Baez-Zuniga of Brownsville were arrested and later arraigned on ten (10) counts of Theft of a Motor Vehicle and Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity.

*The Harlingen Police Department reminds citizens to report any suspicious activity to their local police department. In Harlingen, you can contact us for Emergencies at (911) or the Police Communications Center at (956)216-5940, the H.P.D. Front Desk Supervisor at (956)216-5401, or the Harlingen Area Crime Stoppers at (956)425-TIPS (8477). **Note** \* Arrestees are innocent until proven guilty in a Court of Law...*

### MAGISTRATION:

	OFFENSE	LEVEL	BAIL/BOND
David Martinez	Theft X 10 Engaging	State Jail Felony 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Felony	Total \$500,000.00 \$70,000.00
Baez-Zuniga	Theft X 10 Engaging	State Jail Felony 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Felony	Total \$300,000.00 \$50,000.00



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Assistant Chief  
Michael Kester

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Commander  
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John Parrish

Officer  
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Officer  
Orlando Gonzales



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