



The Felony Lane Gang

~ A loosely knit group of thieves originating in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

3/2/2016

METHOD OF OPERATION:

- The team has a non-involved person rent one or more vehicles which are often never returned.
- The team recruit prostitutes, homeless, and drug addicts to assist with cashing checks.
- The team breaks into vehicles where women have left their purses in plain view with a focus on:
 - Parks
 - Fitness Centers
 - Day Cares
- The team takes the driver's license, social security card, credit and debit cards, and check books.
- Stolen credit cards are used immediately to buy gas and other sustenance items.
- The entire team stays in a motel - usually separate rooms for the main team and the recruits.
- Recruits are matched up with stolen identities through natural looks or with makeup and wigs.
- The recruits are ordered to cash forged checks in the far drive-up teller lane at the bank to which the stolen identity belongs.
- The rental vehicle driven by the recruit usually has tinted windows and a fake or stolen license plate covering the real one. The bad plate is put on the vehicle just before going to the bank and removed shortly after leaving the bank.
- There is always an armed security party watching the transaction from an adjacent parking area allowing them an easy get away if the cashier is compromised. There may also be an armed subject in the back seat of the vehicle.
- The teams are generally not violent because they want to avoid detection, but when compromised they will become violent either with firearms or vehicles.
- Teams stay in an area from a few days to a few weeks depending on how successful they are.

STATISTICS:

- Operational for over a decade
- Over 800 known members
- \$\$\$\$ Hundreds of millions of dollars in losses \$\$\$
- Confirmed activity in almost every state
- Over 240 agencies across the country are pursuing this group
- Leadership is mostly black males with a few black females
- Check cashers are almost always white females

WHAT CAN BE DONE:

- Citizens – Don't leave purses or anything valuable visible in your vehicle. Follow www.facebook.com/felonylanegang
- Police – Recognize an unusual spike in thefts from vehicles
 - Always respond with at least two vehicles
 - Identify suspect vehicles (cashier & surveillance)
 - Canvas gas stations in the area if the reporting was immediate.
 - Check area motels for the suspect vehicles.
 - Notify local bank investigators of the potential threat for a surge in drive-up teller forgeries – many banks will be familiar with this group.
 - Put out a local law enforcement bulletin ASAP and notify your state fusion center.
- Banks – Get educated and be proactive
 - Be extra observant of people using distant teller lanes
 - Does the driver look odd?... like they are wearing a wig or makeup that alters their appearance
 - Look for heavy tinting on the back windows
 - When the vehicle leaves, look for an out of state plate
 - Notify police immediately if there is any suspicion that it could be Felony Lane Gang