



CITY OF CYPRESS POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
**PRESS RELEASE**



February 19, 2015

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Nature of Release:** Residential Burglary Suspects Arrested

**Date/Time of Occurrence:** February 19, 2015 / 8:55 a.m.

**Location of Incident:** Thomas Circle – Cypress, CA 90630

**Case Number:** 1500445

**Suspects:** Sean Brian Rittgers (1-5-82)  
Darren Maxwell Smith (1-12-93)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

On Thursday, February 19, 2015, at 5:06 a.m., a resident living on Thomas Circle was awakened by the sound of keys jingling inside the home. A vehicle was then heard leaving the driveway. It was quickly determined the resident's vehicle, a silver 4-door Nissan Altima, was missing as well as the keys to the vehicle. The suspects had entered the residence through an open rear sliding glass door.

Shortly thereafter, at 5:36 a.m., Anaheim police officers located the stolen car, unoccupied in the parking lot of the Valencia Inn at 2630 W. Lincoln Avenue in Anaheim. Cypress detectives responded to the Valencia Inn and with the assistance of Anaheim officers, conducted surveillance on the vehicle. Within a couple hours from the time of the initial crime, Cypress Police detectives and Anaheim officers arrested three suspects for suspicion of the residential burglary and vehicle theft. During the investigation, Cypress detectives also located a second stolen vehicle, which had been stolen out of West Covina, and two additional burglary victims from the cities of Brea and Villa Park.

Sean Brian Rittgers and Darren Maxwell Smith were charged with residential burglary, conspiracy to commit residential burglary and possession of stolen property. Darren Smith was also charged with grand theft auto. A third suspect detained during the investigation was later released without charges. Rittgers and Smith were eventually transported to Orange County Jail and held on bail pending arraignment on Monday, February 23, 2015, at the West Justice Center.

This incident serves as a good reminder to always lock all doors and windows at night, as well as having adequate outside lighting.



Sean Brian Rittgers (01-05-1982)



Darren Maxwell Smith (01-12-1993)

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Media inquiries should be directed to Sergeant Dean Pinvidic at (714) 229-6624 or via email at [dpinvidic@ci.cypress.ca.us](mailto:dpinvidic@ci.cypress.ca.us). Press releases are distributed via a mass notification email list as well as being posted on our web site and on the Cypress Police Department smartphone free application. Postings to the web site are sometimes delayed due to weekend or after hour releases. If not already on the email roster, you can register to receive the press releases by going to [Press Release Registration](#). Press releases are also posted on Nixle.com. To register for Nixle, please visit [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com). You can also follow the Cypress Police Department on Twitter under Cypress\_PD\_PIO. It is the goal of the Cypress Police Department to provide prompt and accurate information to the public via the multitude of media outlets. Information can be anonymously provided to Orange County Crime Stoppers at 1-855-TIP-OCSS (1-855-847-6227) or at [www.occrimestoppers.org](http://www.occrimestoppers.org)