



UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chicago Man, Caught in the Act, Arrested for Multiple Burglaries, Mail Theft in Lincoln Park

Chicago – On November 7, 2023, a joint investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and Chicago Police Department led to the arrest of Gustavo Balleza, 36, of Chicago, IL. Balleza was identified as a suspect responsible for over 15 burglaries and subsequent mail thefts in the Lincoln Park neighborhood over the past month. Balleza was arrested by postal inspectors in the early-morning hours on the 2300 block of N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL, after he was observed breaking into postal mailboxes and stealing mail. A search of Balleza's person revealed he possessed numerous fake identifications, legitimate identifications not belonging to Balleza, stolen mail, and approximately 65 bank cards in the names of victims.

Based on the joint investigation, Balleza has been charged with felony aggravated identity theft and felony unlawful possession of credit/debit cards in Chicago, IL by the Cook County State's Attorney Office. Felony burglary charges are pending. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service appreciates the assistance of the Chicago Police Department in this investigation.

"The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is dedicated to defending the nation's mail system from criminal activity, preserving the integrity of the U.S. Mail, and protecting United States Postal Service employees. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service values our law enforcement partners for supporting our mission to protect the integrity of the U.S. Mail," said Ruth M. Mendonça, Inspector in Charge of the Chicago Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

It is important to note that criminal charges are only allegations against a person. Every defendant is presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty.

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