




**City of Lafayette  
Police Department**

Community  
Partnership Coin

**# 10**

City of Lafayette  
Police Department

**Date:** June 13, 2017  
**To:** Mayor Mike Anderson, City of Lafayette  
**From:** Eric Christensen, Chief of Police   
**Subject:** **Community Partnership Coin(s), Francisco Flores and Steve Farrell**

Throughout history, military units have used challenge coins emblazoned with their unit insignia or crest to recognize members who perform acts that reflect their tradition of service or valor. This same practice has been adopted by police departments throughout the United States. Although some coins are sold as commemorative gifts, others are presented by police departments as recognition of individuals who perform acts that demand special recognition. The City of Lafayette Police Department's Community Partnership Coin is presented to those who have gone above and beyond to serve their community, the police department, and the City of Lafayette.

**This Community Partnership Coin is presented to Francisco Flores and Steve Farrell of the Yankee Pier Restaurant.**

At the beginning of June, the City suffered a series of thefts from patrons at local restaurants. LPD Investigators identified that two male subjects were coming into our downtown during the lunch hour. The pair would visit local restaurants and try to position themselves near female customers. The pair would specifically target women who had hung their purse on the rear of their chairs - leaving the contents exposed. Once seated near the purse, the pair would create a distraction - allowing one of the subjects to remove the woman's wallet from her purse. Once the pair had the wallet, they would leave the restaurant and the city. The two suspects would then visit a number of businesses, where they would charge hundreds of dollars on every credit card they found in the wallet.

Realizing the trend, LPD Investigators published a crime bulleting regarding the thefts and distributed them to all of the restaurants in the downtown. Businesses were asked to share this bulletin with their employees, but not release the information to the general public.

On 6/12/17, Francisco Flores noticed two subjects that he believed were associated with the photos he had seen in the police bulletin. The men were standing on the opposite side of the street, near a restaurant with both indoor and outdoor seating. Francisco notified his supervisor, Steve Farrell who was also aware of the bulletin. As they watched the pair go in and out of restaurants, they became more convinced these were the two subjects the police were looking for. Steve telephoned the police department to advise us of the presence of the pair in the community.

LPD Officers responded to the area and were able to locate the two subjects who were driving away. A subsequent search of the vehicle located a wallet that had just been stolen from a female customer at another Lafayette Restaurant. The two subjects were placed under arrest.

Your actions in helping us locate and arrest these two individuals is deserving of recognition. You played a significant role in allowing us to bring these two individual into custody, thereby making our community just a little bit safer. You saw something and you took action, on behalf of the entire community, thank-you.

A copy of this document will be maintained at the police department along with a cataloging of the coins that have been presented throughout the history of the program. While not serialized, each coin is assigned a number that relates to the order of presentation. Records will be stored in order of presentation.