

Airport Police Confiscate Stolen Clothing Valued at over \$25,000

Tampa, Fla. (July 16, 2001) - - Tampa International Airport Police Department recover approximately \$25,000 worth of stolen clothing today from Maria Riano who is an illegal immigrant from Peru.

At 8:45 a.m. Airport police responded to the Continental Airlines ticket counter regarding a suspicious passenger. The passenger appeared very nervous and possessed numerous large duffel bags. Due to the circumstances, the airlines searched Riano's baggage and discovered an enormous amount of new clothing with price tags still attached. Some items still had loss-prevention buttons attached.

The Airport police with assistance from Tampa Police Department, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Border Patrol (Department of Justice) are still investigating.

Riano has been charged with dealing in stolen property, opposing a police officer and possession of a fraudulent driver's license.

Daily, Tampa International Airport handles in excess of 100,000 people and more than 50,000 vehicles using the Airport roadways. The Airport Police department consists of more than 100 men and women responsible for law enforcement activities, communications and traffic enforcement.

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