

## 'Knock-knock' burglary suspects say they are not guilty

Three women who were arrested in Glendale last week on suspicion of trying to break into houses after their knocks went unanswered pleaded not guilty to attempted burglary charges Tuesday.

Investigators have not determined if Ziara Lalaan Cannady, 23, of Los Angeles, and Compton residents Valerie Acosta and Sukari Tranece Joffiron, both 20, are also responsible for several break-ins in April in the Encino area, said Sgt. Tom Lorenz of the Glendale Police Department.

"If they're not L.A.'s knock-knock bandits, they're certainly ours," Lorenz said, adding that burglars who knock to check if anyone is home have been common in a series of home burglaries in the Glendale area. "It's nothing new to go up to a house and knock and if no one answers, to go around to the back. What's unusual is that there were three females."

The Los Angeles Police Department in April released footage from a homeowner's surveillance camera that showed three women knocking on a door in Encino Hills south of Ventura Boulevard, going around to the back, then fleeing when an alarm went off. "Whether they were the ones caught in that tape, I am not sure," Lorenz said. "But we have received calls from the Devonshire area from some people identifying them as suspects in their burglaries."

Acosta is being held on \$50,000 bail. Cannady and Joffiron are being held on \$75,000 and \$100,000, respectively. Cannady has a previous conviction of grand theft of money or property exceeding \$400 value. Joffiron was convicted last year on separate counts of carrying an unregistered, loaded handgun and petty theft, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

The three were arrested in Glendale on Friday after neighbors reported suspicious females knocking on doors of homes in the area, said Sgt. Tom Lorenz of the Glendale Police Department. Police first received a call at about 9:15 a.m. from a resident near Valley View and Parkwood Drive who answered the door and was asked directions by a female who claimed she was lost, Lorenz said. The female then left in a black Nissan with another female.

Officers who were dispatched to investigate the report were flagged down by a man who said he had seen several women knocking on his neighbor's door in the 1400 block of North Columbus Avenue, Lorenz said. The man said the women tried to push and pry the door open and went around to the back of the house when they failed, Lorenz said.

Police stopped a black Nissan shortly afterward in the 1500 block of North Columbus and arrested the three women after finding burglary tools that matched the damage on the front door, Lorenz said.