

2 Charged With Theft Of \$45,000 From Store

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EAST HARTFORD — Police arrested two men Monday in connection with a December burglary at the Burlington Coat Factory on Silver Lane and the theft of about \$45,000.

Raul Robles, 24, of 755 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, and Philip Garcia, 34, of 147 Hayes St., New Britain, each were released on \$250,000 bail. Their ar-

raignments are scheduled for May 31 in Superior Court in Manchester.

Both men were charged with first-degree larceny, first-degree burglary, conspiracy to commit first-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit first-degree burglary.

Police said they were called to the store a couple of minutes before midnight Dec. 15 after a burglary alarm went off. Police checked the entrances to the store and determined there was no break-in. About an hour later, another alarm sounded and police went back and checked the entrances again, but found nothing.

A store representative, who had a key for the building and was called after the second alarm, let police investigators inside the store.

Investigators found evidence of a break-in and an of-

Theft

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office had been ransacked. Paper and baskets had been thrown to the floor. A safe was found open and empty cash drawers also were on lying on the floor.

Police theorized the burglary and theft had been an inside job. Investigators later listened to a tape-recording made by the store security system, which was activated when the alarm went off. Police said store employees identi-

fied a former employee, who could be heard on the recording, talking to Robles and Garcia while they were in the office.

Police said Douglas Garofalo, 25, of 33 Runde Lane, Bloomfield, the former employee, could be heard giving the combination numbers to the safe to Robles and Garcia, who broke into the office.

Police said they obtained a warrant for Garofalo's telephone records and determined that he was talking to Robles and Garcia at the time of the burglary and theft.

Garofalo was arrested in February and is awaiting trial.

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