



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

50 Jesup Road

Westport, Connecticut 06880-4385

Telephone: 203-341-6000 Fax: 203-341-6092

Foti Koskinas
Chief of Police

Press Release

Westport Police Identify Two Juvenile Suspects in Connection with Stolen Motor Vehicle

(Westport, CT) On Sunday March 22, 2020 at approximately 2:36am, Westport Police dispatch received a complaint of suspicious persons in the area of Hale Street. The complainant reported that she had observed at least three to four individuals exit two vehicles stopped on her street. She then observed as these individuals ran on to the properties of several neighboring homes. Ultimately they approached the complainant's residence and apparently noticed that they were being watched. At this time, all re-entered the vehicles and began leaving the area. The caller was able to provide a description of them as well as their last known direction of travel. This activity fits the pattern of overnight motor vehicle burglaries and vehicle thefts that have occurred with great frequency in recent months.

Responding officers set a perimeter around the area and initially located two vehicles matching the description provided by the complainant stopped together on Greens Farms Road. An officer was able to obtain a registration plate on one of the two, which subsequent computer checks confirmed as having been previously stolen out of the state of New York. This vehicle ultimately entered Interstate 95 northbound and eluded officers. The second vehicle attempted to flee the area, eventually passing an officer in a stationary position at a high rate of speed. Shortly thereafter, while attempting to negotiate a turn at a high speed, this second vehicle veered off the road into a wooded area causing disabling damage. While responding to the crash, an officer noted a third vehicle in the same general area. This car matched the description of one reported stolen from Greenwich a short time prior to this incident. Officers did not attempt to engage any of these vehicles in pursuit.

Officers responded to the scene of the accident and identified two occupants; both juveniles. The car that they had been operating was confirmed to have been stolen out of Darien, Connecticut on this same morning. Damage to it was significant enough for it to catch fire, necessitating a response from the Westport Fire Department. Both juveniles were transported to Norwalk Hospital by Westport EMS for minor injuries sustained in connection with the crash.

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Upon further investigation it was confirmed that the two were 15 and 16 year old males from the city of Bridgeport. Both were turned over to the custody of parents at Norwalk Hospital. This incident remains under investigation, however both will be charged via juvenile summons with Larceny and Conspiracy offenses relative to the theft of the vehicle as well as several motor vehicle violations.

Once again the Westport Police Department asks that you please let this incident serve as a reminder that vehicle break-ins and vehicle thefts continue to occur here and in neighboring communities at great frequency; especially in the overnight hours. Criminals are opportunistic, and presumably will use the cover of the current public health crisis to increase the frequency of these types of activities.

As has been detailed several times in the past, preventative measures taken by the community coupled with the vigilance of our officers is the key to safeguarding our neighborhoods from being victimized. With that, we ask that you please always lock your car and bring your keys inside. Please remember to take valuables out of your car for the night, such as purses, wallets and electronics and to never leave these items out in plain view within; even if the vehicle is locked. It is also good practice to keep outside lights on and motion lights activated. Lock your residence and arm the security system if your home is equipped with one. Again, the sum of all these preventative measures have a great deterrent effect on the occurrence of these types of crimes. We also ask that you please notify the police department if it appears that your vehicle was entered or if you should observe anything suspicious in your neighborhood. The vigilance of the complainant in this incident not only led to the identification of two suspects, but also likely prevented additional residents from being victimized on this date. No one knows your neighborhood better than you do, and the information you provide is always vital to our crime prevention efforts.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3.23.2020

Lieutenant Anthony Prezioso

(203) 341-6009