



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Foti Koskinas
Chief of Police

Press Release

Westport Police Department Arrests Nine Vehicle and Residential Burglary Suspects

(*Westport, CT*) – The Westport Police Department announces the arrest of multiple suspects, both juvenile and adult, in connection with attempted burglaries/thefts of vehicles and garages/homes. Two stolen vehicles were recovered, one handgun was recovered and a total of nine arrests were made.

At approximately 11:00am on Monday, October 23, 2023, Westport Police were alerted by the Fairfield Police Department to be on the lookout for a car that was reported to be occupied by three males wearing masks. These suspects had been seen trying door handles of vehicles in residential driveways and had reportedly made at least one observed attempt to enter a garage. The suspect car was reported to have been last seen around the Fairfield and Westport town line. Westport units began checking the area. A detective in an unmarked police vehicle located the car and suspects walking up a residential driveway attempting to enter a parked vehicle. A second unmarked police vehicle arrived to assist. When the suspect recognized them as officers, they fled from the scene, striking and significantly damaging/disabling one of the police vehicles and injuring an officer. This vehicle fled towards Interstate 95 southbound where it eventually became disabled due to damage sustained in the initial collision. It had stopped between exits 18 and 17. Multiple units from several police agencies responded to the area and quickly apprehended a number of suspects who attempted to flee on foot. The vehicle that the suspects were traveling in was previously reported stolen and found to contain a handgun.

While officers were setting up a perimeter and attempting to apprehend the suspects involved in this initial incident, a secondary vehicle known to officers to be involved in similar criminal activity passed through the location of the search. This vehicle, also previously reported as stolen, contained multiple occupants. Upon

attempting to stop this secondary vehicle, it immediately fled from the officers, striking an unmarked police vehicle being operated by Chief Koskinas. The vehicle then began traveling recklessly through several local roads to elude officers. This secondary suspect eventually made its way to the Sherwood Island Connector, where it was involved in a motor vehicle accident that resulted in it becoming disabled. Again, several subjects were taken into custody. This motor vehicle accident necessitated a brief closure of the roadway, which has since been re-opened to traffic.

This remains an active investigation. Again, several arrests were made of both juvenile and adult suspects ranging in age from 12 to 20 years, featuring both criminal and motor vehicle charges: nine arrestees in total at this time. Although this is an ongoing investigation, it is believed that all parties directly involved in today's incidents have been apprehended. There is therefore no threat to the community associated with this investigation. Further details on arrestees and charges will be provided at a later time.

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