



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Shonda Knight

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LCSO Investigates Vehicle Burglaries and Shots Fired

Early yesterday morning, in the Killearn area, a homeowner on Iron Leige Trail heard a noise outside. He observed his car door open and an unconfirmed number of people (at least two) burglarizing his vehicle. The only suspect description provided is that at least one of the burglars appeared to be a white male. The homeowner scared them off and then proceeded to chase them in his vehicle.

When the homeowner arrived on Kingman Trail, he heard what sounded like a crash. The sound was that of burglars, crashing a white SUV they'd just stolen from a Kingman Trail residence. The Iron Leige Trail resident then fired a round from his gun into the air. At that time, he saw a red, Ford F-250 truck coming toward him and shots being fired at him, from the truck. The homeowner retreated back to his home. An unknown number of shots were fired at him and his vehicle after he returned home. The suspects then fled the area. No injuries have been reported as a result of this incident. The red F-250 truck has since been recovered at Capital Park on Omega Ave. and confirmed as a vehicle stolen from a residence on Sturgeon Drive, days prior to the incident.

The LCSO is actively investigating this case and has extra patrols in the Killearn area, as well as additional neighborhoods throughout the county. LCSO is also receiving assistance from the Florida Highway Patrol in monitoring those areas. In addition, two specialty units are working leads in this case. "We will not let up until the suspects responsible are behind bars," said Sheriff Walt McNeil.

There have been numerous rumors circulating on social media regarding this incident. Here are some points of clarification:

- **4:10 a.m.-** LCSO deputies dispatched to a shooting on Iron Liege Trail
- **4:12 a.m.-** Dispatch informed responding deputies of a vehicle crash on Kingman Trail (possibly related to the shooting incident).
- **4:14 a.m.-** First deputy arrived at Iron Liege Trail.
- **4:15 a.m.-** First deputy arrived at Kingman Trail and parked short of the residence in order to maintain sight of the crash scene. He approached and cleared the vehicle a short time later, when a second deputy arrived as backup. The two residents then made on-scene contact with the deputies.

(Continued)

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- As several deputies searched the street behind the Kingman Trail residence, a deputy on Kingman Trail roped off the scene. At that time, the female homeowner located a shell casing in the grass next to the roadway. The deputy shined his flashlight into the roadway and located several more casings. During this time, there were at least eight law enforcement officers in the area BOLOing, securing the scene and looking for evidence in a three block radius.
- A packet of zip ties were recovered on scene. The recovered zip ties are only large enough to make about a two inch loop, intended for small wiring projects. They were found coupled with what appeared to be school supplies, including a dry eraser block, possibly belonging to the F250 truck's rightful owner.
- Over the last 90 days, LCSO deputies have been in the Killlearn area at least 128 times for community policing.
- A preliminary report shows LCSO has worked 13 vehicle burglaries, one vehicle theft and one vehicle theft attempt in the Killlearn Acres and Killlearn Estates areas in the last 90 days.
- Online crime data is available via *CrimeMapping* on our agency's website, leoncountysoc.com. Click on LCSO Crime Map on the homepage.
- The LCSO has conducted numerous media campaigns regarding the rash of vehicle burglaries. Those efforts include television and newspaper interviews, social media posts, released surveillance footage, publicized arrests that include recovered firearms, Nextdoor social media postings to specific neighborhoods, billboards and nightly, 9 p.m. reminders on social media to lock your doors and remove your valuables. To stay informed, please follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and download and sign up for the Nextdoor neighborhood app.
- LCSO's Community Relations Unit is actively engaged with neighborhood watch groups. Our deputies will eagerly assist you in relaunching or starting up a neighborhood crime watch in your area. For more information, call (850) 606-3332.

Anyone with information regarding vehicle burglaries, including area residents who may have relevant surveillance video or pictures, should contact (850) 606-3300.



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