



# **Release of Public Information**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: **8/5/2008**

**Larry Campbell**  
**Sheriff**

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### **Man Arrested for Selling Stolen Cars for Scrap Metal**

This afternoon, Leon County Sheriff's Deputies responded to Jack's Auto Recycling, located at 4413 Entrepot Blvd. in reference to a stolen vehicle. The complainant advised Deputy Paul Connell that his 2001 Ford Expedition had been stolen and he had located it at Jack's Auto Recycling. The victim explained the vehicle was not operational and had been parked at 707 Carver Street. When the victim noticed the vehicle had been stolen, he began to check recycling salvage yards and located his stolen vehicle at Jack's Auto Recycling.

Leon County Sheriff's Detectives Shannon Black and Damon Sullivan responded to Jack's Auto Recycling and discovered David Clayton had been contacting Mauldin's Automotive Towing and authorizing them to tow vehicles to Jack's Auto Recycling. Jack's Auto Recycling would then crush the vehicles and pay Clayton for the scrap metal. This was being done without the consent or knowledge of the vehicle owners. While Detectives were conducting this investigation, a driver for Mauldin's Automotive Towing reported he had just received a call from Clayton regarding another vehicle he wanted towed to Jack's Auto Recycling. Clayton described the vehicle to be towed as a black 1994 Chevy Z-24, which was parked in a parking lot at Cedar West Apartments located at Mission Road and West Tharpe Street. Clayton met the tow truck driver at Cedar West Apartments and instructed him to tow the vehicle to Jack's Auto Recycling. As Clayton left the parking lot he was taken into custody by Leon County Sheriff's Detectives John Rudd, Cedric Tryman and Jeff Hibbert, who had observed the transaction.

Clayton stated that he did instruct the tow truck driver to take the black Chevy Z-24, but he had made contact with the manager for Cedar West Apartments who informed him that the Chevy Z-24, along with other abandoned vehicles would soon be towed. Clayton was unable to provide the name of the manager and did not say that he was given authorization by the manager to have any vehicles towed, but he did state, "the vehicles were going to be towed anyway". Detectives interviewed the manager for Cedar West Apartments who advised he did not know Clayton and had not authorized the removal of any vehicles. The owner of the Chevy Z-24 was located and reported he did not give anyone permission to remove his vehicle.

At this time it has been discovered that approximately twenty-eight (28) vehicles were sold as scrap by Clayton. Five (5) of these vehicles have been confirmed stolen and more charges are expected. Sheriff's Detectives are working with the Tallahassee Police Department, who are investigating similar thefts in which Clayton is now a suspect. This investigation is on going

**Arrested:**  
**David Clayton**  
**DOB: 07/10/1960**



**Charges:**  
**(2) Counts of Grand Theft of Motor Vehicle**  
**(2) Counts of Dealing Stolen Property**



Leon County Sheriff's Office

