



Release of Public Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update: Man Arrested for Buying Stolen Cars for Scrap Metal

On Tuesday August 5, 2008, Leon County Sheriff's Detectives arrested David Clayton who had been stealing cars by having them towed to Jack's Auto Recycling, located at 4413 Entrepot Blvd. and then crashed for scrap metal. Suspicions as to how so many cars could have been stolen and crashed by Jack's Auto Recycling led Leon County Sheriff's Detectives Shannon Black and Damon Sullivan to conduct an investigation into the activity of the manager of Jack's Auto Recycling, John Wilhelm.

During the course of this investigation, it was determined Wilhelm purchased sixteen (16) stolen vehicles from Clayton between July 15, 2008, and August 4, 2008. The majority of these vehicles were towed to Jack's Auto Recycling within 30 minutes of being stolen by Clayton. When questioned, Wilhelm advised Clayton would have a vehicle towed to the business at which time he would immediately research the VIN through a DHSMV website. If the vehicle was not listed as stolen and had no liens against it, he purchased the vehicle. By checking the VIN immediately after the vehicle had been towed, Wilhelm eliminated the opportunity for the vehicle's owner to discover the theft, report the theft to local law enforcement and to have the stolen vehicle entered into national database as being stolen. After purchasing a stolen vehicle from Clayton, Wilhelm would have the vehicle crushed and transported within 24 hours.

An examination of Jack's Auto Recycling records indicated Wilhelm has not had any of the Bill of Sales notarized since opening the business in May, 2008. Mr. Wilhelm also failed to return any vehicle titles to the Department of Motor Vehicles, identifying them as being salvaged, although obligated to do so by Florida State Statute. Wilhelm stated to detectives he was aware each of these forms needed to be notarized; however he failed to do so.

Arrested:

John Wilhelm

DOB: 08/11/1955

Charges:

(16) Counts of Dealing in Stolen Property

(18) Counts of Salvaging Vehicles without Proper Affidavits

Operating a Chop Shop



Leon County Sheriff's Office

