

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Suspicious Vehicle Leads to Arrests

Western Tallahassee- two subjects were arrested after their car was spotted driving without lights in a local car dealership's lot after hours.

Friday morning shortly after 2:00 AM Leon County Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Cox stopped two subjects after he witnessed them acting suspiciously at Tallahassee Dodge Chrysler Jeep which is located at the corner of Capital Circle Northwest and West Tennessee Street.

According to reports, Cox attempted to stop the vehicle after witnessing the occupant's suspicious behavior. Cox documented that prior to the vehicle stopping, the vehicle drove several hundred yards at a slow pace on West Tennessee Street and the occupants were making movements inside. Once the vehicle was stopped, the driver, later identified as Thomas Johnson 03-09-86, provided Cox a false name. During interviews and after running a computer check he determined Thomas had a suspended license. Thomas was then taken into custody.

Deputy Matt Shaut arrived as a backup for Cox and began to interview the passenger, identified as Melvin Footman Jr. 01-29-89. During the interview, Shaut reported seeing a handgun partially concealed under the passenger's seat. The passenger was removed from the car and taken into custody after discovering the handgun was a loaded Glock pistol. During a search of the car, deputies then located several tools and auto parts, including a stereo and amplifier.

Sgt. Chris Chase, LCSO spokesman said "these deputies' actions may have stopped a burglary or robbery that just occurred or was about to happen. The actions of the driver and passenger prior to the stop paired with discovery the loaded handgun, concealed but within their immediate reach of the subjects, is a constant reminder of the dangers to our law enforcement officers".

The Leon County Sheriff's Office Burglary Unit is following up possible leads with the arrests. This information is being shared with investigators from the Tallahassee Police Department.

Footman and Thomas were booked into the Leon County Jail. Footman was charged with Carrying a Concealed Firearm. Thomas was charged with Providing False Information and Driving on a Suspended License. The investigation continues.



Leon County Sheriff's Office

