



# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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[www.leoncountysos.com](http://www.leoncountysos.com)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contact:** Deputy Shade McMillian

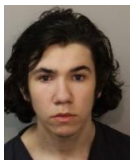
**Date:** March 24, 2021

### Joint Auto Crimes Task Force Arrests Two in Vehicle Burglary Investigation

On March 16, 2021, at around 9:30 AM, Leon County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the residential area of Deerlake Road in reference to vehicle burglaries in progress. Deputies responding to the area located 17-year-old Harper Cotton, who matched the suspect description. Deputies learned Cotton was on probation, since March 11, for burglary and theft charges in February. Members of the Joint Auto Crimes Task Force assumed the investigation and learned Cotton was responsible for committing three burglaries in the area. Cotton advised detectives he was also responsible for a March 14, vehicle burglary reported to LCSO which involved the theft of a firearm. Detectives also learned Cotton traded that firearm to 20-year-old Alexander Metzger for marijuana.

With the assistance of patrol deputies, LCSO SPIDER Unit, K9, and the LCSO Air Support Unit, detectives were able to locate Metzger driving on Capital Circle Northeast. After observing several traffic violations, deputies conducted a traffic stop on Metzger's vehicle. Deputies made contact with Metzger and a strong odor of marijuana was coming from inside his vehicle. Deputies also observed remnants of a substance consistent with marijuana within Metzger's vehicle. Metzger was removed from his vehicle and deputies later found THC wax and drug paraphernalia in his pockets. Deputies later discovered additional drugs, drug paraphernalia, and two firearms inside Metzger's vehicle. One of the firearms proved to be reported the stolen firearm Cotton advised he traded Metzger for drugs.

Cotton was arrested and transported to the Juvenile Assessment Center. Metzger was arrested and transported to the Leon County Detention Facility.



**ARRESTED:** Alexander Metzger  
**DOB:** 8/03/2001  
**CHARGES:** Grand Theft Firearm  
Carrying Concealed Weapon Unlicensed  
Possession of Controlled Substance  
Marijuana-Possession over 20 grams  
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia  
Dealing in Stolen Property



**ARRESTED:** Harper Cotton  
**DOB:** 12/1/2003  
**CHARGES:** Armed Burglary  
Grand Theft of Firearm  
Burglary of a Conveyance (3 counts)  
Dealing in Stolen Property  
Violation of Probation



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