

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



Walt McNeil, Sheriff
Leon County Sheriff's Office
2825 Municipal Way
Tallahassee, FL 32304
(850) 606-3300
www.leoncountysos.org

Michael J. DeLeo, Chief
Tallahassee Police Department
234 East Seventh Avenue
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 891-4200
www.talgov.com/tpd/



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 04, 2019

Local Burglary Suspect Runs Out of Gas

On January 4, 2019, the Leon County Sheriff's Office responded to a burglary alarm at 553 Capital Circle SW (City Electric Supply). Upon arriving in the area, deputies saw 34 year old **William Whitaker** using a rock to break the glass on the front door of the business. Before deputies could stop Whitaker, he got into his vehicle, a white Nissan, and quickly drove off. Deputies attempted a traffic stop but Whitaker refused to stop. A short distance later, the vehicle ran out of gas and the vehicle stopped. Whitaker was then taken into custody by deputies.

Through the follow up investigation, by TPD Investigators and LCSO Detectives established, probable cause to charge Whitaker with the following incidents:

On January 2, 2019, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to 1467 Capital Circle NW (Buddy's Home Furniture) due to a glass break alarm. A burglary was discovered with the point of entry being a shattered glass front door. The business reported a home theater system as being stolen and a review of the surveillance footage provided a suspect description of a light skinned black male with tattoos on both arms and a tattoo on the top of his left hand. The surveillance footage also captured the suspect leaving in a white sedan.

On the same date, the Leon County Sheriff's Office responded to a burglary alarm at 870 Blountstown St. (Leon County Tax Collectors Office). A shattered glass door was discovered with a television reported stolen. Surveillance footage captured the same suspect who burglarized Buddy's Home Furniture.

On January 3, 2019, the Tallahassee Police Department again responded to 1467 Capital Circle NW (Buddy's Home Furniture) due to a glass break alarm. A second burglary was discovered with nothing reported stolen. A review of the surveillance footage showed the same suspect from the previous burglary along with the same vehicle. TPD also responded to 3613 Crawfordville Rd (Family Dollar) for a burglary alarm. The suspect smashed the front window to the business and stole several packs of cigarettes.

Whitaker was later taken to the Leon County Detention Facility for booking with pending charges.

Deputy Dave Teems
Public Information Officer
Leon County Sheriff's Office
Office - (850) 606-3342

Officer Damon Miller, Jr.
Public Information Officer
Tallahassee Police Department
Office - (850) 891-4255

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Arrestee:

William Whitaker *YOA: 34*

Charges:

Fleeing and Eluding pursuant to Florida Statute 316.1935(1)

Resist Officer Obstruct Without Violence pursuant to Florida Statute 843.02

4 Counts of Burglary of a Structure pursuant to Florida Statute 810.02

3 Counts of Grand Theft \$300 or more but less than \$5000 pursuant to Florida Statute 812.014(2)(c)(1)

3 Counts Criminal Mischief \$200 or more but less than \$1000 pursuant to Florida Statute 806.13(2)

Petit Theft pursuant to Florida Statute 812.014(3)(a)

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