

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

RTCC Leads Joint Auto Crimes Task Force to Arrest in Vehicle Burglaries

On March 30, 2020, around 4:00am, LCSO Deputies responded to the 2100 block of North Meridian Road to investigate a vehicle burglary. A witness told deputies he saw a black male suspect enter a marked LCSO vehicle. The witness knew the suspect was not the deputy who drove that vehicle. After the witness yelled at the suspect, the suspect ran away with a rifle in his hand. Deputies on scene confirmed the marked LCSO vehicle was burglarized with no forced entry and a rifle was stolen. Security video from the area showed a small passenger car driving slowly through the parking lot. A short time later, the vehicle was seen leaving the area at a high rate of speed. Several other vehicle burglaries were reported in the area, also with no forced entry, including an unmarked Florida Wildlife Commission vehicle with several AR rifle magazines being stolen.

Detectives from the LCSO/TPD Joint Auto Crimes Task Force responded and took over the investigation. Victims advised stolen credit cards from their vehicles were being used at various businesses in Leon County. Task Force detectives responded to the businesses and viewed security video of the cards being used. The LCSO RTCC (Real Time Crime Center) assisted and through investigative means and resources was able to develop a suspect, 28-year-old Brandon Johnson, and provided vital information on the vehicle he used in the burglaries.

Detectives located Johnson, along with the vehicle in security videos, in the 2700 block of West Tharpe Street. Johnson was wearing the same clothes seen in security videos. During the investigation, an inside inventory of the vehicle revealed an AR rifle magazine, matching one reported stolen, and cigars and lighters from one of the stolen credit card purchases. Detectives also confirmed Johnson was a convicted felon in the State of Florida.

Johnson was arrested and transported to the Leon County Detention Facility.

LCSO is currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the events leading up to this case. "I'm proud of our team for making a quick arrest in this disappointing case. It is a staunch and critical reminder of the importance of everyone locking their vehicles, removing their valuables, including firearms, each and every day," said Sheriff Walt McNeil.



ARRESTED: Brandon Johnson

DOB: 5/5/1991

CHARGES: Armed Burglary to a Law Enforcement Vehicle
Burglary of Conveyance during a State of Emergency (5 counts)
Grand Theft of Firearm
Criminal Use of Personal Identification Information (3 counts)
Fraud Use of Credit Card; 2 or more in 6 months
Possession of Stolen Credit Card
Possession of Firearm or Ammunition by a Convicted Felon (2 counts)
Petit Theft (4 counts)

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