



MILAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Citizen Advisory/Press Release:

Car Larceny Suspect Identified and Charged; Possible Connection to Suspicious Incident

In mid December, the Milan Police Department took three reports of unlocked vehicles being entered and rummaged through, with either nothing taken or items of minor value taken. Three additional incidents occurred on the night of December 24th. Two occurred on Cherry and a third occurred on York. A local resident had home security system video depicting the suspect entering two vehicles on Cherry and trying to enter a third on York. The vehicle on York was locked and no entry was gained, however officers took a report of another vehicle on York in the same vicinity that was entered and gone through. Officers investigating these cases were able to develop information on a possible suspect. Although the video was a bit grainy, the suspect information that was developed matched the person depicted in the video. That suspect was wanted on several outstanding arrest warrants from other jurisdictions, including one warrant for Retail Fraud. While on patrol on the evening of December 29th, Sergeant Burgos noticed the 31 year old male suspect from Milan walking in the area of Platt and West Main and stopped and arrested him on the outstanding arrest warrants. At the time of his arrest, the suspect was wearing athletic shoes that matched those that the suspect in the above mentioned video was wearing on the night of the vehicle larcenies. When the sergeant questioned the suspect regarding the vehicles that were entered the night of the 24th, the suspect admitted going through 3-4 cars that evening and taking loose change and some music CD's. That case was submitted to the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office and a three count misdemeanor warrant for Breaking and Entry Auto was issued. The suspect remains in custody on his other charges and is expected to be formally arraigned on the additional Milan warrants in the near future.

On the evening of December 26th, two 15 year old males and a 20 year old male approached Officer Walters while he was on patrol and informed him that as they were walking to a local convenience store a male got out of a parked vehicle in the area of East Philips and Dexter and told them he was the "police" keeping an eye on the neighborhood for persons that might be up to no good. The vehicle was described as a dark colored sedan, possibly a Pontiac G6. According to the youths, it appeared that there may have been a couple subjects inside the vehicle in addition to the male that approached them, but the other occupants never got out. The subject that was talking to them appeared to be eyeing the backpack one of them was carrying and gave them the impression he might be looking to grab it. After telling them to stay out of trouble, he got back into the car. When the youths pointed out the area where the car had been parked to Officer Walters, it had already left. The subject that spoke to the complainants was not wearing any type of police uniform or police insignia, and did not produce anything that he claimed was police identification. He did not detain them, and reportedly only engaged them in "small talk." The vicinity was checked and an area wide broadcast to neighboring departments was put out regarding the incident with negative results. There have been no other similar incidents in Milan or in surrounding areas. In speaking with the prosecutor on this case, it does not appear the subject engaged in enough conduct sufficient to charge him with impersonating a police officer. The subject that exited the vehicle and spoke with the complaints does resemble the description of the suspect arrested and charged in the above auto larceny cases.

GERARD SCHERLINCK
CHIEF OF POLICE