



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT WRAPS [UP] MORE THAN JUST PRESENTS BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS

Two suspects have been arrested and charged in connection to local larceny case

NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP, Mich., December 19, 2019 – The community can rest a little easier this holiday season knowing that two suspects from Santa's "naughty" list are behind bars. Two teenage suspects had been breaking into vehicles & stealing valuables from inside cars when the Northville Township Police Department responded to a call on December 7, 2019 at the Meijer located at 8 Mile and Haggerty. The two teens ended up stealing an unlocked car with the keys inside from the parking lot and fleeing the scene.

The Detective Bureau communicated with the Livonia Loss Prevention Team about the incident and provided details and a description of the suspects, who had been identified through surveillance video. When the Loss Prevention team members recognized the two suspects later at a Livonia Meijer, they called the Livonia Police Department, who made the arrest. The vehicle was located and returned to the owner.

Both Michael Tolbert and Vantae Pitts are 17 years old and reside in Detroit Michigan. Tolbert is being charged with Motor Vehicle Theft, Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property, Larceny from Auto and Breaking and Entering of a Vehicle. Pitts is also being charged with Motor Vehicle Theft and Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property.

It is estimated that they had taken \$1,700 worth of goods (including a laptop and cell phone left in cars) in addition to taking the unlocked vehicle.

Holiday shopping can provide easy access for crimes of opportunity. People are rushing around, storing items in vehicles between stores and are trying to multi-task (talking on the phone/texting while traveling from the parking lot into the stores). It's important to stay focused when parking your vehicle. Check your surroundings and make sure your valuables (if storing in the vehicle) are out of site. Lock your doors before going inside. These simple steps can make a difference when they are crimes of opportunity!

Thanks to our Northville Police Department, the Livonia Police Department and Meijer for working together to provide a happy ending to this cautionary holiday tale.

For more information about the **Lock it or Lose it** initiative the Northville Township Police Department is actively working on to help deter thefts from vehicles and homes, please contact Northville Township Police Chief, Paul Tennies, at **248.662.0455** or visit **twp.northville.mi.us**.

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