



WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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- An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency
& Public Safety Answering and Dispatch Point -

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WESTFIELD POLICE CHIEF ALERTS RESIDENTS TO RECENT HOME BURGLARIES, VEHICLE THEFTS

WESTFIELD, NJ – AUGUST 4, 2023 – Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro is alerting residents to several recent home burglaries which resulted in the theft of vehicles, including two which occurred early this morning resulting in the theft of three vehicles.

Chief Battiloro stated the Westfield Police Department responded to a report of a home burglary reported at approximately 6:25 AM this morning on Tamaques Way in which a 2023 BMW X7 was stolen. According to the responding officers' investigation, the point of entry into the home appears to have been an unlocked rear door.

While investigating this incident, the responding officers learned of a second home burglary which occurred nearby, also on Tamaques Way, in which a 2023 Land Rover Range Rover and a 2021 BMW X7 were stolen. According to the responding officers' investigation, the point of entry into that home appears to have been a side window which was forced open.

According to Chief Battiloro, both of these burglaries and vehicle thefts appear to have occurred just before 6:00 AM this morning.

These incidents follow a home burglary and theft of a 2019 Audi Q7 which occurred on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at approximately 1:49 AM on the 600 block of Prospect Street. In that incident, an officer on patrol observed the vehicle exiting a driveway at an extremely high rate of speed without any of its lights activated.

Believing it had just been stolen, the officer pursued the vehicle through residential neighborhoods until terminating the pursuit upon approach to the entrance to U.S. Highway 22 East in Mountainside. The point of entry into that home appears to have been an unlocked rear door.

"There is no doubt these homes were targeted for the vehicles parked in their driveways," stated Chief Battiloro, who added that sleeping residents were present inside of all of these homes when the incidents occurred.



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“The Westfield Police Department has been working feverishly to combat this on-going vehicle theft problem,” Battiloro added. “This includes the implementation of License Plate Reader (LPR) technology to target police patrols and the employment of increased patrol tactics, as well as engaging in complex criminal investigations involving our law enforcement partners at the New Jersey State Police Auto Theft Task Force, aimed at targeting this crime problem at a much higher level.”

However, Chief Battiloro cautions residents and urges them to take all reasonable precautions, such as locking doors to vehicles and homes at all hours of the day, activating burglar alarms – especially during the overnight hours, and keeping properties well-lit during hours of darkness.

Chief Battiloro also noted that he and Mayor Brindle are scheduled to meet with Union County Prosecutor William Daniel in the coming days, along with mayors and police chiefs in several other Union County municipalities, to discuss the ongoing issue of car thefts and their impact on public safety.

“While the recent laws passed at the state level strengthening car theft penalties are a good first step, there is more work to be done,” said Battiloro. “While police departments around the state continue to do their part to protect the communities they serve, we also need swift and appropriate prosecutions and consequences to hold these repeat criminals accountable. We look forward to working together with the Union County Prosecutor’s Office to achieve much-needed progress on these fronts.”

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