



WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Honor, Integrity, Pride.

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THREE PERSONS ARRESTED, FIREARM RECOVERED FOLLOWING POLICE PURSUIT WITH STOLEN VEHICLE

WESTFIELD, NJ – SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 – Three persons, two adults and a juvenile, were arrested and a firearm was recovered following a police pursuit with a stolen vehicle occurring on Wednesday afternoon, September 20, 2023.

According to Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro, the Westfield Police Department was alerted at approximately 1:26 PM to the presence of a reported stolen vehicle entering Westfield by one of its license plate recognition (LPR) cameras. The vehicle, a white Ford cargo van, was traveling west on East North Avenue.

Officer Kristopher Jackus initially observed the stolen vehicle traveling west on East North Avenue in the area of Fourth Avenue and attempted to stop it in the area of Crossway Place. The driver of the vehicle failed to stop for Officer Jackus and a pursuit ensued into the Township of Scotch Plains.

While traveling over the Hetfield Avenue bridge from North Avenue to South Avenue, one of the vehicle's occupants, identified as male juvenile, 17, of Plainfield, leapt out of the cargo area of the vehicle while it was still in motion and fled on foot. He was subsequently arrested in the roadway by Officer Michael McCarthy.

The vehicle then came to a stop, with the driver, identified as Kenadre Williams, 18, of Clementon, exiting and fleeing on foot. He was subsequently arrested after a foot chase by Officer Jackus on Shady Lane in Fanwood. At the time of his arrest, Williams was in possession of a handbag containing a Ruger 9mm handgun, which he resisted surrendering. A magazine containing seven (7) rounds of ammunition was inserted into the firearm.

The front seat passenger, identified as Basheer White, 18, of Somerset, was subsequently arrested by Officer Joseph Natale while exiting the vehicle.

Williams, the stolen vehicle's driver, has been charged with the following:

- 2C:20-7, Receiving Stolen Property (a third-degree crime);
- 2C:20-7a, Theft of Moveable Property (a third-degree crime);
- 2C:39-5b(1), Unlawful Possession of a Weapon (a second-degree crime);
- 2C:29-2b, Eluding by Motor Vehicle (a third degree crime);
- 2C:29-2a Eluding by Foot (a disorderly persons offense);



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- 2C:29-1a Resisting Arrest (a fourth-degree crime);
- 2C:35-10a(1), Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) – Cocaine (a third-degree crime);
- 2C:35-10a(1), Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) – Heroin (a third-degree crime).

Both White, the stolen vehicle’s front seat passenger, and the juvenile cargo area passenger have been charged with the following:

- 2C:20-7a, Receiving Stolen Property (a third-degree crime);
- 2C:29-2b, Eluding by Vehicle (a third-degree crime);
- 2C:29-1a, Eluding by Foot (a fourth-degree crime);
- 2C:35-10a(1) Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) – Cocaine (a third-degree crime);
- 2C:35-10a(1) Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) – Heroin (a third-degree crime).

Williams and White were released on their own recognizance (R-O-R) after being processed at the Westfield Police Department and served with criminal complaints.

The juvenile was released to the custody of a parent after being processed at the Westfield Police Department and served with juvenile delinquency complaints.

The Westfield Police Department was assisted with these arrests by officers from the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Police Departments.

“The Westfield Police Department continues to aggressively combat vehicle theft and those crimes associated with the use of stolen vehicles,” stated Chief Battiloro, who credited Westfield’s network of license plate recognition (LPR) cameras with providing real-time information to law enforcement.

“While these LPR cameras have proven to be an extremely effective tool for us, it is our officers who are doing an absolutely outstanding job reacting to the real-time information they provide,” added Chief Battiloro.



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