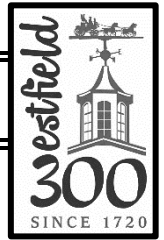




WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Honor, Integrity, Pride.



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WESTFIELD POLICE CHIEF ANNOUNCES ARRESTS AND RECOVERY OF STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLES

WESTFIELD – AUGUST 7, 2020 – Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro has announced the arrest of two (2) adults and a juvenile from Newark on charges relating to recent thefts of motor vehicles from Westfield.

Nasir Johnson, age 19, and Giavannii Farris, also age 19, along with a 16 year old male juvenile, were all arrested on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, in the Upper Clinton Hill neighborhood of Newark by detectives from the Westfield Police Department and members of the New Jersey State Police Auto Theft Task Force, who have been working together to combat Westfield's ongoing vehicle thefts.

Each subject was charged with two (2) counts of Receiving Stolen Property, a 3rd degree crime. Johnson and Farris were both subsequently released from custody on their own recognizance after being served with summonses. The juvenile was subsequently remanded to the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center.

Additionally, three (3) motor vehicles recently stolen from Westfield were recovered. These included those stolen from residences located on Stoneleigh Park, Dudley Court and Orenda Circle.

"I am grateful for our working relationship with the New Jersey State Police," stated Chief Battiloro, who noted a Westfield Police Department detective has been assigned to its Auto Theft Task Force since March to help combat the ongoing vehicle theft problem facing many suburban New Jersey municipalities.

To date, nineteen (19) motor vehicles have been stolen from Westfield and another forty (40) have been burglarized in apparent attempted vehicle thefts in 2020, the vast majority of which were left unlocked with keys inside. All but one (1) of those stolen vehicles has been recovered.

"Our officers and detectives are working extremely hard to combat vehicle thefts, but our residents must do their part as well," stated Chief Battiloro. "We cannot continue to leave our vehicles unlocked with the key fobs in them," he stressed.

"Vehicle thefts not only have a financial impact on owners and insurance companies, but they can often lead to dangerous encounters when members of law enforcement interact with those in stolen vehicles," stated Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. "We are committed to working alongside our partners within the New Jersey State Police Auto Theft Task Force to combat these crimes and bring those responsible to justice," he added.

In 2019, there were a total of twenty-two (22) vehicles stolen from Westfield and another seventy (70) burglarized.



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