



WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Honor, Integrity, Pride.



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TWO ARRESTED FOR VEHICLE BURGLARIES FOLLOWING EARLY MORNING FOOT CHASE

WESTFIELD – NOVEMBER 17, 2020 – Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro has announced the arrests of two persons for vehicle burglaries following an early morning foot chase on Monday, November 16, 2020.

The Westfield Police Department responded to a residence located on the 500 block of N. Chestnut Street at approximately 7:19 AM on a report of these persons attempting to enter his vehicle, which was parked in his driveway.

Upon arrival in the area, Officer Joseph Saunders observed the suspects walking west on Maple Street from N. Chestnut Street. Both immediately began to run and Officer Saunders gave chase, pursuing them into the rear yards of residences located on the 600 block of Maple Avenue.

Additional responding officers established a perimeter of the involved neighborhood and then commenced a methodical search of the properties in pursuit of the fleeing suspects.

Shaheem Brantley, age 19, of Newark, was subsequently located running in a rear yard of a residence located on the 200 block of Harrison Avenue. He surrendered himself without incident to Detective William Kleeman of the Westfield Police Department and Detective Anthony Gialanella and his K-9 partner “Marco” of the Union County Sheriff’s Office.

A 15-year old male, also of Newark, was subsequently located and arrested by Officers Saunders and Andres Jaramillo in a shed in the rear of a residence located on the 600 block of Maple Street. He was reportedly previously observed by a resident lying inside his vehicle, which was parked in the driveway of his residence located on the 200 block of Harrison Avenue.

At this time, both Brantley and the juvenile have been charged with Burglary, 2C:18-2A, Criminal Attempt, 2C:5-1A, and Obstructing Administration of Law, 2C:29-1A. The juvenile has additionally been charged with Criminal Trespass, 2C:18-3A.

The Westfield Police Department is investigating additional vehicle burglaries or attempted vehicle burglaries that reportedly occurred on Crescent Parkway, Kimball Avenue and Wychview Drive. Anyone with any information relating to these reported incidents is asked to contact Detective Elizabeth Savnik by telephone at 908-789-6078 or by e-mail at esavnik@wpdnj.org.

Brantley has been committed to the Union County Jail in Elizabeth pending a detention hearing. The juvenile has been served with juvenile delinquency complaints and was released to the custody of a



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guardian.

The Westfield Police Department was assisted in their search efforts by officers from the Mountainside and Union County Police Departments.

Chief Battiloro commended the outstanding efforts of all responding officers, who spent almost two hours searching for these suspects. “This was an all-hands on deck effort,” he stated. “Their drive, dedication and commitment in bringing this matter to a successful conclusion with arrests cannot be understated.”

Vehicle burglaries and thefts remain a persistent problem in Westfield. Residents are reminded to lock their vehicles at all times and immediately report any suspicious persons, vehicles and/or activities directly to the Westfield Police Department.

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