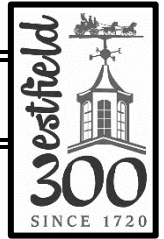




WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Honor, Integrity, Pride.



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WESTFIELD POLICE CHIEF REPORTS HOME INVASION, ARMED ROBBERY OF CACCIOLA PLACE RESIDENCE

WESTFIELD – AUGUST 16, 2020 – Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro has announced that a home invasion and armed robbery reportedly occurred on the 200 block of Cacciola Place on Saturday, August 15, 2020, at approximately 10 PM.

The Westfield Police Department responded to an initial report from a neighbor of an apparent dispute inside the first floor apartment. The first arriving officer attempted to make contact with the apartment's occupants and, after identifying himself as the police, subsequently observed multiple suspects exiting out of a bedroom window and fleeing the area in a gray Cadillac Escalade, which was parked just outside.

Additional responding officers attempted to pursue the fleeing vehicle east on South Avenue East into Garwood, but reported it was traveling at an extremely high rate of speed with its headlights off and they lost sight of it.

An ensuing investigation determined the victim, a male in his late 20s, reported there was a knock at the door. Upon opening it, four (4) black males wearing masks then forced their way in. At least three (3) of the four suspects reportedly brandished firearms.

The victim was reportedly thrown to the ground, "pistol whipped," and threatened. The apartment, which was also occupied by a female in her late 20s at the time of the incident, was subsequently ransacked.

The Westfield Police Department's Detective Bureau responded to the scene. It was assisted with a search of the scene by the Union County Sheriff's Office.

The victim sustained a contusion to his forehead as well as other minor injuries and refused medical attention. The female occupant was uninjured. Two (2) of the suspects were further described as wearing white "hoodies" in addition to masks. Another suspect was further described as "heavy set" and wearing a blue shirt.

Anyone with additional information relating to this incident is asked to contact Detective Dennis DaSilva of the Westfield Police Department at 908-789-4000 (Extension 0).



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