



WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Honor, Integrity, Pride.

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WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES ARREST OF 16-YEAR OLD MALE IN RESPONSE TO REPORT OF ATTEMPTED VEHICLE BURGLARIES

WESTFIELD - APRIL 27, 2021 - The Westfield Police Department announced the arrest of a 16-year old male on Sunday, April 25, 2021, at approximately 6:14 AM while responding to a report of a person attempting to gain access to parked vehicles on the 500 block of Topping Hill Road.

It was reported the suspect was apparently accompanied by another person who was following the suspect while operating a white sedan.

As Officer Frank Moya arrived in the area in his marked police patrol vehicle, he observed the suspect white sedan pull alongside a parked vehicle on Kimball Turn and its driver reach out the open window and pull on the parked vehicle's driver side door handle.

As Officer Moya continued his approach, the white sedan sped directly towards him, traveling on the wrong side of the roadway, and forcing him to make an evasive maneuver to avoid a head-on collision. Following a crash with Officer Moya's police vehicle while passing him on the right, the white sedan became disabled on several large rocks located on the front lawn of a nearby residence.

Both the male driver and a male passenger exited the vehicle's front driver's side door and attempted to flee on foot, disregarding the Officer Moya's commands to stop.

Officer Moya was able to detain and apprehend the vehicle's passenger, subsequently determined to be a 16-year old male from Newark. It was also determined afterwards the white sedan, a 2018 Nissan Altima, was stolen.

The 16-year old male was charged with Receiving Stolen Property, 2C:20-7A, a third degree crime, and Obstruction of the Administration of Law, 2C:29-1B, a fourth degree crime. He was also determined to be wanted on a juvenile warrant issued by the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey, Essex County.

Following a canvas of the area, the Westfield Police Department identified at least two (2) unlocked vehicles that were burglarized and several more attempted burglaries.



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A 2020 Lexus RX was also reported stolen from the 500 block of Highland Avenue. It was reportedly left unlocked with its key fob in it at the time of the theft.

Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro commended Officer Moya for his extraordinary actions to avoid what would likely have been a very serious, head-on collision with a fleeing stolen vehicle and for his ability to quickly recover and then detain and arrest a fleeing suspect following a crash.

“Responding to these reported motor vehicle burglaries and thefts has become extremely dangerous for our officers,” stated Chief Battiloro. “Officer Moya performed admirably and, as a result, no one was injured as a result of this incident.”

The marked police patrol vehicle Officer Moya was operating was rendered unserviceable as a result of the crash.

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