



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Incident Location: Timothy Trail Dr./Washington St. Urbana, IL.

Date/Time Information Release: 01/12/2024 at 5:45 PM

Date/Time of Incident: 01/11/2024 at 3:44 PM



SUSPECT ARRESTED IN RECENT SURGE OF BURGLARIES FROM MOTOR VEHICLES – URBANA

Since mid-December 2023, Urbana has experienced a notable increase in burglaries (thefts) from motor vehicles, with over 70 reported incidents. The majority of these car burglaries occurred in southeastern Urbana, prompting a comprehensive investigation by the Urbana Police Department.

Utilizing data-driven policing, targeted deployment of limited resources, and effective investigative tactics, law enforcement identified Tyrese Ford, 21, of Urbana, as a suspect in an investigation into use of stolen credit cards at the Urbana Walmart. On Thursday, January 11, 2024, at approximately 3:44 p.m., Urbana detectives arrested Ford at the intersection of Timothy Trail Drive and Washington Street in Urbana.

Officers obtained consent to search Ford's residence and found stolen property linking him to multiple vehicle burglaries in the area. Officers also found firearm ammunition. Ford is a convicted felon and is not permitted to possess ammunition. The Champaign County State's Attorney's Office charged Ford with one count of Burglary for the unlawful use of credit cards at Walmart, three counts of vehicle burglary, and one count of Unlawful Possession of Firearm Ammunition by a felon. The Champaign County State's Attorney's Office has filed a petition to detain Ford in this case as well as a petition to revoke his release on a separate pending case.

While this arrest is a significant development, the investigation into these and other thefts from vehicles is ongoing. Urbana Police urge citizens to keep their vehicles locked and refrain from leaving valuables, firearms, spare keys, cash, electronics, and medications within their vehicles.

Residents with additional information or video footage of suspicious activity, particularly during late-night hours, are encouraged to contact the Urbana Police at 217-384-2320. Victims of theft or trespass to their vehicles are urged to report incidents promptly to police, as the details may contain crucial information for the ongoing investigation into serial crimes.

Citizens are reminded that information submitted to Crime Stoppers is completely anonymous. Calls are routed to a third-party national call center that receives your information, completes a tips information form, and then passes the information to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Caller ID tracking is not utilized by Crime Stoppers and conversations are not recorded. Tips can be submitted to Crime Stoppers by phone at 217-373-8477 (TIPS), online at 373tips.com, or via the "P3 Tips" mobile app.

Information shared with Crime Stoppers remains completely anonymous, and arrangements can be made for private sharing. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards of up to \$5,000 for tips leading to an arrest in any homicide case, \$2,500 for felony crimes involving firearms, and up to \$1,000 for tips resulting in the arrest of individuals responsible for other crimes.

*****ALL SUSPECTS MENTIONED OR IMPLIED ABOVE ARE CONSIDERED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY IN A COURT OF LAW*****

Contact: Lt. Mike Cervantes, Urbana Police Department, Criminal Investigations Division
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