



Wyckoff Police Department PRESS RELEASE

TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA
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For Immediate Release:

A shoplifting was previously reported at a local business on February 9. At that time, one of the two male suspects was arrested and charged. The other suspect fled the area and was not located. Det. Sgt. Kevin Kasak conducted an investigation and was successfully able to identify the suspect that fled. On February 26, Jairo Navas, North Bergen NJ, age; 37 was charged with one count of acting as an accomplice while a shoplifting was committed. He is scheduled to appear in court at a later date.

On February 13, at approximately 3:00 PM, Sgt. Mark Tagliareni observed a black Volkswagen Jetta travelling on Route 208 North. He observed that the driver appeared to have a difficult time maintaining his lane of travel. A traffic stop was conducted and the subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of William Rueckert, Montgomery NY, age; 27. He was transported into headquarters and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, and possession of a hypodermic syringe. He also received motor vehicle summonses for failure to maintain a lane of travel, having an unclear license plate, and possession of a controlled dangerous substance in a motor vehicle. He was released pending a court date.

On February 19, at approximately 8:30 PM, P.O. Kyle Ferreira and P.O. Kevin Oldewurtel were dispatched to the area of Franklin Terrace for a suspicious vehicle. They observed the vehicle, a grey Mercedes Benz, driving erratically through the area. A motor vehicle stop was conducted and the subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Alan Verwer, Wyckoff NJ, age; 76. He was transported into headquarters and charged on motor vehicle summonses with driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, failure to maintain a lane,

failure to give proper signal, and driving while intoxicated in a school zone. He was released from headquarters pending a court date. The Mercedes was impounded and held for twelve hours under John's Law.

On February 25, at approximately 10:00 PM, P.O. Ryan Noon and P.O. Kevin Oldewurtel were dispatched to the area of Martom Road on a report of an intoxicated driver. They observed the vehicle, a white Chevrolet Van, and conducted a motor vehicle stop. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Craig Lannin, Ramsey NJ, age; 53. He was transported into headquarters and charged with driving while intoxicated, driving while intoxicated in a school zone, reckless driving, and possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle. After processing, he was released to the custody of a friend pending a court date. His vehicle was impounded and held for 12 hours under John's Law.

On February 26, at approximately 10:30 PM, P.O. Robert Schlossberg observed a vehicle being operated in an erratic manner on Cedar Hill Avenue. A traffic stop was conducted and the subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of John Castiglia, Allendale NJ, age; 22. He was transported into headquarters and charged with possession of marijuana, possession of narcotics paraphernalia, possession of a controlled dangerous substance in a motor vehicle, failure to keep right, and failure to maintain a marked lane of travel. After processing, he was released pending a court date.

The Wyckoff Detective Bureau recently received information that the Quik Mart Convenience Store at 85 Crescent Avenue was selling vaping products to minors. On February 22, Det. Sgt. Kevin Kasak was monitoring the location and observed a person who appeared to be under 21 years old purchase vaping products and leave the store and enter the passenger side of a vehicle. The vehicle was stopped and found to be occupied by the driver, a male 17 year old Ridgewood, NJ resident, and passenger, a male 16 year old Ridgewood, NJ resident. The passenger admitted that he purchased a 4 pack of Mint Juul pods from the Wyckoff Quik Mart. He further stated that he was not required to show identification to make the purchase. The Juul pods were confiscated and the juveniles were released. Sgt. Kasak returned to the store to continue monitoring it and quickly observed a male who appeared to be under 21 years old exit the back seat of a vehicle and enter the store. The male made a purchase in the store, exited and showed the contents of what he purchased to the occupants of a second vehicle parked in the lot. He then entered the vehicle he had arrived in and left the area. The vehicle was stopped and the driver was identified as a 17 year old male resident of Franklin Lakes, NJ. The passenger who was observed in the store was identified as a 16 year old Franklin Lakes, NJ resident. The 16 year old admitted purchasing a Flair Extreme Vapor Pod Starter Kit from the store. He advised that he was not asked for identification or asked his age when making the purchase. The items were confiscated and the juveniles were released. Sgt. Kasak returned to the store and spoke with the owner and another employee that was present about the selling of tobacco products to persons under 21 years of age. On February 26, at

approximately 3:30 PM, Det Sgt. Kasak and Det. Sgt. Ragucci returned to the store to serve complaint summonses to the owner and employee. When they arrived, they observed a male who appeared to be under 21 years old in the store making a purchase. They observed the male exit the store and enter a vehicle occupied by three additional suspected juveniles. They observed the male that was in the store hand a package of vape pods to another passenger in the vehicle. The detectives stopped the vehicle and identified all of the occupants to be under 21 years old. The passenger that was in the store was identified as a 16 year old resident of Midland Park, NJ. He stated that he purchased a pack of Myle Strawberry Pods and a pack of Watermelon Pods. He also stated that he had purchased vape products from the same store several times in the past, using his health insurance card for identification. The vape products were confiscated and the juveniles were released. The detectives returned to the store and again observed a male standing at the register who appeared to be under 21 years old. He was detained as he exited the store and identified as a 16 year old Wyckoff resident. He advised that he purchased a pack of Mint Juul pods and when asked for identification, he showed his high school ID card, which the store accepted. The pods were confiscated from him and he was released. The detectives entered the store and again spoke with the owner about their observations. The owner of the store, Anjun Dey, Paterson NJ, age; 52, and his wife Shimu Gupta, Paterson NJ, age; 38 were arrested and charged with selling tobacco / vaping products to persons under 21 years old. On Tuesday March 5 at approximately 10:30 AM, Sgt Kasak and Special Agents from the NJ Department of Treasury performed an unannounced inspection at the Quik Mart. The Special Agents discovered that store was in compliance with all State regulations regarding the sale of tobacco products. Anjun Dey was again warned about selling tobacco products to those under 21. He and his wife are scheduled to appear in Municipal Court.

The Wyckoff Police Department would like to point out that the above individuals have been charged with a crime, offense, and or motor vehicle violations. However, they are presumed innocent unless and until they are found guilty in a court of law.

We cannot stress enough the value of our residents remaining alert in their neighborhoods and reporting anything unusual or suspicious to the police, "Hear It!, See It!, Report It!"

We encourage all residents to report ANY suspicious persons, vehicles, or activity occurring at any time to the Wyckoff Police – County Communications Center at 201-891-2121 or 911 in the event of an emergency.

