



Wyckoff Police Department PRESS RELEASE

TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA
FROM: Lt. Joseph Soto
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CONTACT: Lt. Joseph Soto

(201) 891-2121 DISPATCH
wyckoffpolice@wyckoffpolice.org

For Immediate Release:

On January 11, at approximately 1:30 PM, a local business owner entered headquarters to report a shoplifting that occurred. The business owner reported that she observed a female customer remove skincare products from the shelf, place them in her bag, and exit the store without paying for the items. The business owner was able to identify the customer. The subsequent investigation by Det. Sgt. Michael Ragucci resulted in the arrest of Rachel M. Anders, Midland Park, age; 31. Anders was charged with shoplifting, processed and released from headquarters. She is scheduled to appear in court.

On January 21, at approximately 10:15 PM, P.O. Michael Teegan was patrolling in the area of Deep Brook Road. He observed a vehicle stop in the middle of the roadway, the driver exited, and the vehicle began to roll down the roadway. The driver ran back towards the vehicle, re-entered it, and was able to bring it to a stop. The driver then attempted to leave the area, travelling on Grandview Avenue. P.O. Teegan conducted a traffic stop to check on the welfare of the driver. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Evan W. Sheedy, North Arlington, age; 37. He was transported to headquarters and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence, operating a motor vehicle under the influence within 1000' of a school, reckless driving, improper display of license plates, and obstructing the passage of other vehicles. He was processed and released to the custody of a friend pending a court date. His vehicle was impounded under John's Law. P.O. William Plisich assisted P.O. Teegan with the arrest and processing.

On January 28 at approximately 12:35 PM, Sgt. Thomas Tully and Sgt. Kevin Pinches responded to a local business to take a report of a theft. The employees of the business reported that a male had entered the business and made a purchase. Several minutes later, he was observed removing a beverage from a refrigerated case, consume it, and exit the store without paying. He was advised by the employee that he needed to pay for the item but refused and continued to exit the store. An image of the actor was captured from the store's surveillance system and posted on the Wyckoff Police Department Facebook page. Several calls were received by the public identifying the actor. The subsequent investigation by Det. Sgt. Michael Ragucci resulted in the arrest of Joshua A. Fronefield, Midland Park, age; 43. A complaint summons charging him with shoplifting was served upon a family member at his home. He is scheduled to appear in court.

On January 30 at approximately 3:00 AM, P.O. Robert Schlossberg was patrolling in the area of Route 208 South. He observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed, in excess of 100 MPH. He conducted a motor vehicle stop and when he approached the vehicle detected the odors of an alcoholic beverage and marijuana. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Jacomo Distefano, Wood Ridge, age; 50. He was transported to headquarters where he was charged with driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, possession of a controlled dangerous substance in a motor vehicle, and speeding. He was processed and released pending a court date. His vehicle was impounded under John's Law. Sgt. Daniel Kellogg and P.O. Ryan Noon assisted P.O. Schlossberg with the arrest and processing.

On February 3, at approximately 1:50 AM, P.O. Robert Schlossberg was patrolling in the area of Cedar Hill Avenue and Sicomac Avenue. He observed a grey SUV cross over the double yellow line while negotiating a bend in the roadway. He conducted a motor vehicle stop of the vehicle and upon approaching it detected a strong odor of marijuana. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Christian George, North Haledon, age; 20. George was transported into headquarters and charged with possession of marijuana, possession of a controlled dangerous substance in a motor vehicle, unclear license plates, and failure to observe traffic lanes. He was processed and released from headquarters with a pending court date.

On February 4, at approximately 9:30 PM, Sgt. Thomas Tully, P.O. James Bakelaar, and P.O. Kaitlyn Maglione were dispatched to a residence on a report of an underage drinking party taking place. After knocking on the door, a 17 year old answered and advised that she lived at the residence and her parents were upstairs sleeping. While speaking with her through the open doorway, alcoholic beverage containers were observed in plain view inside of the house. The officers also detected a strong odor of alcoholic beverages coming from inside the house. The 17 year old then advised them that she did not live at the residence and no one over the age of 21 was present. The subsequent investigation resulted

in the arrest of another 17 year old female, who in fact resided at the residence. She was charged on a juvenile delinquency complaint with making real property available for the underage consumption of alcoholic beverages. The complaint was forwarded to the Bergen County Superior Court, Family Part for disposition.

On February 5 at approximately 11:00 AM, a resident received a call on her cell phone from an unknown caller. The caller advised that he had abducted the resident's 14 year old daughter and was demanding \$10,000 for her safe return. The resident could hear a female in the background screaming and believed that it was her daughter, who should have been at school. She was on her way to the bank to withdraw the ransom money when she came upon P.O. William Christopher. She flagged him down and reported what was transpiring, and stated that she was still on the phone with the caller, who advised her not to hang up. P.O. Christopher advised her to continue to the bank while he followed her. While travelling to the bank, P.O. Christopher requested officers respond to the school to check the welfare of the student. Lt. Charles Van Dyk was able to ascertain that the daughter was in fact safe at school, and was never in any danger. The resident was advised of this and when officers attempted to speak with the caller on the phone, he hung up. The resident was transported to the school to be reunited with her daughter. The moments leading up to this incident caused the school to go into a brief lockdown to ensure the safety of all occupants of the building. Once it was ascertained that everyone was safe, the lockdown was lifted. The Wyckoff Detective Bureau with assistance from the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office were able to determine that the call originated from Mexico. The number has been linked to numerous similar scams around the country.

The Wyckoff Police Department reminds all residents that the above is a very common scam. The caller will often use fear tactics and urgency in order to get you to become a victim of their scam. One variation is a phone call about a relative being involved in an accident and needing bail money. In another, a caller will claim to be a relative who has injured someone else in an accident and is being extorted for money. The caller will often claim that their injuries from the accident are making them sound different on the phone. These calls are often made to grandparents and the caller will plead with them not to tell any other family members. Very often, the request will be to make a wire transfer of the funds, or purchase prepaid gift cards and turn over the account information on the cards to the caller. Payment made in these forms is usually untraceable. In all reported cases, the supposed victim was found safe and unharmed. If you receive a call regarding a kidnapping or a family member needing money due to being in an accident, please check with your family member and contact the police before believing the caller on the line.

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.