



Wyckoff Police Department PRESS RELEASE

**TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA
FROM: Lt. Joseph Soto
DATE: October 12, 2021
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For Immediate Release:

On September 10, P.O. Michael Scalise took a report from a local business concerning the theft of tools by a former employee. The report was forwarded to the detective bureau for further investigation, which was resulted in the arrest of Christopher Conklin, Haledon NJ, age; 40. He was charged with one count of theft and is scheduled to appear in court.

On September 21, P.O. Joseph Fullam responded to an automotive repair shop on Godwin Avenue on a report of a stolen catalytic converter. The owner of the business advised that the truck, a 2007 Ford F350, was parked in the lot awaiting repair. It appeared that the actor(s) used a battery powered saw to cut the catalytic converter from the truck. The theft was reported to have occurred between 9/17 and 9/21.

On September 22 at approximately 7:30 PM, Sgt. Kevin Pinches, Sgt. Ryan Noon, and Det. Sgt. Mark Tagliareni responded to a home on Cedar Hill Avenue on a reported burglary. The officers observed that the actor(s) entered the home by breaking a window near the front door. The investigation revealed that the actor(s) entered and ransacked multiple rooms. The Bergen County Sheriff's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigations was requested to respond to the scene to assist in gathering evidence. The detective bureau is investigating the burglary.

On September 30, Sgt. Ryan Tenney and P.O. William Christopher were dispatched to a local business on a report of employee theft. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Bryce Gregerson, Waldwick, NJ, age; 20. He was transported into headquarters and charged with one count of theft. He is scheduled to appear in court.

On October 2, at approximately 9:20 AM, P.O. James Bakelaar and P.O. Nicholas Bucci were dispatched to a residence on Crankshaw Place on a report of items stolen from a vehicle. The officers were advised by the homeowner that he left his garage door open during the evening hours and two unlocked vehicles in the garage were entered. Several items, including a wallet were reported missing. The homeowner advised the officers that one of his credit cards had been used by the actor(s) at a gas station in Irvington, NJ. The matter was turned over to the detective bureau for follow up investigation.

On October 3, at approximately 3:15 PM, Sgt. Kevin Pinches, P.O. James Bakelaar, P.O. Kevin Marcoux, and P.O. Nicholas Bucci were dispatched to a Crescent Avenue address on a reported motor vehicle theft in progress. The caller reported that two male subjects exited a blue BMW and attempted to enter vehicles parked in a driveway. While responding to the area, P.O. Marcoux observed the BMW travelling south on Wyckoff Avenue. After observing the patrol vehicle, the driver of the BMW fled at a high rate of speed onto Route 208 South and was not pursued. It was later discovered that the BMW had been reported stolen in Westfield, NJ. Surveillance video provided by the caller revealed that the BMW backed into his neighbor's driveway, two males exited and attempted to enter several vehicles in the driveway next door before being confronted by the caller and fleeing. While further investigating, patrol officers were advised that the BMW was stopped in Newark, NJ, and after a brief foot pursuit one of the actors was taken into custody. The detective bureau is further investigating, and charges are pending.

Chief Murphy would like to remind all residents to be alert for, and immediately report any suspicious activity or persons. With darkness coming earlier and the approaching holiday season, there is often an increase in criminal activity. Some of the crimes that spike during this time are residential burglaries, thefts of packages delivered to homes, shoplifting, motor vehicle burglaries and thefts, and acts of criminal mischief. To best protect yourself from becoming a victim, always keep vehicle doors locked and remove the keys or fob from it. When leaving your home vacant, please remember to put lights, televisions, radios, etc., on timers or wireless devices that can be controlled remotely. You don't want your home to be left in total darkness as that is an indicator to criminals that no one may be home.

Halloween is a few short weeks away and many residents, both young and old, will be walking the streets looking for treats! Please be aware of this as you operate your vehicle on township roadways. Many times, a young child may be so excited about getting a treat that they may dart into the roadway. Many township streets become crowded with pedestrians on Halloween and are difficult to navigate. Remember to operate your vehicle in a slow, cautious manner not only on Halloween but anytime pedestrians are present.

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.