



Wyckoff Police Department PRESS RELEASE

TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA
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For Immediate Release:

On June 8, at approximately 12:10 AM, P.O. Kyle Ferreira was observing traffic on Route 208 North in the area of Grandview Avenue. He observed a grey SUV pass his location and noted that the driver appeared to have difficulty maintaining a lane of travel. The vehicle was stopped in the area of Russell Avenue. Upon approaching, P.O. Ferreira detected an odor of raw marijuana emanating from the interior of the vehicle. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of the driver, Nicole A. Steele, Oakland NJ, age; 21 and a passenger, Tayler M. Brown, Brooklyn NY, age; 21. Steele was charged with possession of marijuana. She also was issued motor vehicle summonses for having an obstructed view, failure to maintain a lane, and possession of narcotics in a motor vehicle. Brown was charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance. Both parties were processed and released pending a court date. Sgt. Michael DeMaio and P.O. Ryan Tenney assisted with the arrests.

On May 31, Wyckoff resident reported to Sgt. Thomas Tully that she was missing diamond earrings from her home. She suspected that a friend who had visited earlier in the year may have taken the earrings. Det. Sgt. Kevin Kasak investigated the missing jewelry and quickly developed the friend as a suspect. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Alexis Barbaro, Mahwah NJ, age; 39. On June 12, she arrived at headquarters and was charged with one count of 3rd degree theft. She was processed and released from custody pending a court date.

On March 6, 2018 a structure fire was reported on Huntington Court. Due to the fire, the

residence was deemed unsafe and condemned. The cause of the fire remained under investigation. On June 12, the former occupant of the residence, Carolyn M. Kaetz, age; 54 admitted to Det. Sgt. Kevin Kasak that she started the fire. She was charged with one count of aggravated arson, a second degree crime, and transported to the Bergen County Jail.

A joint investigation with the NJ Attorney General's Office Insurance Fraud Division, and the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office resulted in the arrest of a Wyckoff resident. On June 29, 2018 Det. Sgt. Kevin Kasak charged Christopher J. Cioffi, age; 32, with fourth degree forgery, fourth degree uttering a forged instrument, fourth degree falsifying or tampering with records, and third degree insurance fraud. The investigation revealed that Cioffi allegedly altered a "Certificate of Liability Insurance" document to show that his towing company, Mach 1 Towing, was insured. Cioffi was served, processed and released from headquarters pending a court date.

On June 30, 2018 at approximately 1:40 PM, Sgt. Mark Tagliareni was monitoring traffic on Route 208 North at Cedar Hill Avenue. He observed a silver Honda pass his location driving at an extremely high rate of speed, making no effort to slow down while passing his marked police vehicle. Sgt. Tagliareni observed that the driver of the Honda was using both the acceleration lane and shoulders to recklessly pass other vehicles as it continued northbound on the highway. Upon catching up with the Honda in the area of Colonial Road, the driver appeared to be coming to a stop. Instead of stopping, he accelerated on Colonial Road towards Franklin Avenue. Sgt. Tagliareni attempted to stop the Honda as it turned onto Franklin Avenue. Due to the extremely reckless driving of the Honda's operator, and his disregard for the safety of others on the roadway, Sgt. Tagliareni terminated his pursuit of the vehicle. Approximately two hours later, the driver was arrested by the New York State Troopers on Interstate 87 North. Sgt. Tagliareni was able to positively identify the arrested subject as the same person he attempted to stop. The driver, Melvin A. Jovel, Hackensack NJ, age; 19 was charged with eluding and endangering others. He is currently being held in the Rockland County NY jail, awaiting extradition to New Jersey.

Chief Murphy would like to remind residents that door to door solicitors are required to obtain and display a valid Wyckoff permit while soliciting. Solicitors who have a permit have undergone a background investigation and been approved by the police department to solicit door to door. Non-profit groups are exempt from having to obtain solicitor permits. They are required to contact police communications and provide a list of persons soliciting, the area that they are in, and supervisors information. The Township of Wyckoff does have a "Do not knock list" which is provided to all solicitors who obtain a permit. They are advised to disregard those residences on the list. To add your address to the "Do not knock list" go online to www.wyckoff-nj.com, and follow the "forms" link to the police department section. Residents should report any negative encounter with solicitors to Wyckoff Communications at 201-891-2121.

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.