



## Wyckoff Police Department PRESS RELEASE

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**TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA**  
**FROM: Lt. Joseph Soto**  
**DATE: September 21, 2018**  
**CONTACT: Lt. Joseph Soto**

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

### **For Immediate Release:**

**On April 26, 2018 at approximately 4:00 PM, Sgt. Kevin Pinches took a report of a shoplifting that occurred at a local business during the prior evening. The manager reported that the items shoplifted were over the counter medications. The investigation was turned over to Det. Sgt. Michael Ragucci, who obtained video surveillance images of the suspects and shared them with other law enforcement agencies. On September 4, 2018, Det. Sgt. Ragucci was contacted by a detective from the Fair Lawn NJ Police Department. The Fair Lawn detective advised him that he recently arrested a shoplifting suspect who matched the suspect from the Wyckoff incident. The subsequent investigation resulted in Det. Sgt. Ragucci signing a criminal complaint for shoplifting against Nydia Gonzalez-Vega, Brooklyn NY, age; 27.**

**On August 19, 2018 at approximately 10:00 AM, Sgt. Michael DeMaio, P.O. Kyle Ferreira, and P.O. Kenneth Marcoux were dispatched to a local business on a report of a shoplifter. Upon their arrival, store security had the suspect in custody and turned him over to the police officers. The subsequent investigation determined that the suspect entered a self-checkout aisle and only scanned a few of the items in his cart before attempting to leave the store. The suspect, Michael J. Raj, Hawthorne NJ, age; 48 was transported into headquarters. He was charged with one count of shoplifting and released pending a court date.**

**On September 4, 2018, Det. Sgt. Michael Ragucci signed a criminal complaint against Fangcheng Liang, Hackensack NJ, age; 54 charging him with issuing bad checks. The charge stemmed from a former employee of Liang's reporting that several of his paychecks were not honored due to insufficient funds.**

**On August 24, 2018 at approximately 6:00 PM, Sgt. Mark Tagliareni, P.O. Joseph Fullam, and P.O. Kaitlyn Maglione were dispatched to a local business on a report of a shoplifter. Upon their arrival, the officers were advised that the suspect fled the area in a grey Hyundai. This information was immediately disseminated to surrounding law enforcement agencies and resulted in the vehicle being stopped by a Midland Park Police Officer. The store manager advised that the suspect attempted to leave the store with numerous 12 packs of Red Bull. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Allison J. Sorbo, Woodcliff Lake NJ, age; 29. Sorbo was transported into headquarters and charged with one count each of shoplifting, possession of a controlled dangerous substance, and possession of controlled dangerous substance paraphernalia. She was released pending a court date.**

**On August 31, 2018 at approximately 6:45 PM, P.O. Michael Flim was dispatched to the area of Route 208 South and Cedar Hill Avenue on a report of a motor vehicle crash. Upon his arrival, he observed a beige Toyota Camry had left the roadway and struck a utility pole. While investigating the crash, P.O. Flim discovered that the driver of the vehicle had his New Jersey driving privileges suspended. He was also found to be in possession of narcotics paraphernalia. The driver, Christopher J. Ambrose, New York, age; 25 was placed under arrest and transported into headquarters. He was charged with one count of possession of narcotics paraphernalia and issued a summons for driving with a suspended license. He was released pending a court date.**

**On September 1, 2018 at approximately 5:00 PM, P.O. Michael Scalise was dispatched to a Hurley Road address on a report that someone just stole a bicycle. The resident provided a description of the actor and stated that he was last seen heading towards Midland Park. A neighbor of the victim provided officers with images of the suspect from his home surveillance system. While reviewing the images, P.O. Scalise recognized the suspect from prior dealings with him. The investigation was turned over to the detective bureau. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Jaime D. Bauer, Wyckoff NJ, age; 30. Bauer was taken into custody and charged with one count of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree theft and one count of criminal trespass. After processing, he was remanded to the Bergen County Jail.**

**On September 9, 2018 at approximately 3:30 AM, P.O. Michael Teegan was dispatched to the area of Route 208 North and Ewing Avenue on a report of a pedestrian on the highway. Upon his arrival, P.O. Teegan observed a Chrysler minivan stopped on the highway straddling two lanes of travel. P.O. Teegan, along with Sgt. Daniel Kellogg and Franklin Lakes Officers, approached the vehicle and observed a male slumped over the steering**

wheel. They were able to awaken him and detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emanating from the vehicle. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of George H. Bennet, Pompton Lakes NJ, age; 69. Bennet was transported into headquarters and charged with driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, delaying traffic, not travelling on marked lanes, and failure to exhibit an insurance card. His vehicle was impounded under John's Law. After processing, he was released to the custody of a friend pending a court date.

On September 11, 2018 at approximately 8:30 AM, P.O. Kyle Ferreira was advised by a citizen of a suspicious person in the area of Washington School. P.O. Ferreira located the subject in the area of VanHouten Avenue. While speaking with the subject, P.O. Ferreira noted that he matched the description of a criminal trespass suspect from the prior day. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of Ezequiel M. Cordero, Moline, IL, age; 37. Cordero was transported into headquarters and charged with one count of criminal trespass and one count of hindering his own apprehension. After processing, he was released from headquarters pending a court date.

On September 15, 2018 at approximately 1:15 PM, Sgt. Michael DeMaio and P.O. Kyle Ferreira were dispatched to a local business on a report of shoplifters. Upon their arrival, store security had detained two suspects. The officers were advised that the suspects were observed placing numerous items in a shopping cart and approach the self-checkout lane. They only scanned a few items and attempted to leave the store without paying for the remainder of the merchandise. The subsequent investigation resulted in the arrests of Kathleen M. Gostissa, Franklin Lakes NJ, age; 58 and Eric J. Gostissa, Franklin Lakes NJ, age; 31. Both were transported into headquarters and charged with one count of shoplifting. After processing, they were released pending a court date.

With the recent opening of Township schools, Chief Murphy would like to take this time to remind everyone about the importance of safe driving. Distracted driving has proven to be one of the major causes of motor vehicle crashes and pedestrian related accidents.

Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety.

These types of distractions include:

- Texting
- Using a cell phone or smartphone
- Eating and drinking

- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player

**But, because text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, it is by far the most alarming distraction.**



*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.*