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News Release

Second search warrant conducted for spree of vehicle burglaries

Charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, meth, stolen property possible

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (January 3, 2017) — Arkansas City police and the Cowley County Sheriff's Office last week executed a second search warrant stemming from a recent spree of vehicle burglaries.

The warrant, which was executed at 3:28 p.m. Dec. 27, 2016, at 417 E. Jefferson Ave. in Arkansas City, was the latest search in connection with the burglaries that first came to police attention Dec. 9.

Two Ark City men were arrested that day by the Arkansas City Police Department in connection.

Joseph DeWayne Peters, 29, and Marcus Franklin Peters, 27, were arrested on suspicion of three counts of burglary, two counts of criminal damage to property, one count of criminal use of a financial card, one count of possession of stolen property and four counts of theft each.

Both men were transported to and booked into the Cowley County Jail in Winfield in lieu of \$20,000 bond through Cowley County District Court in Arkansas City.

Both Joseph and Marcus Peters remained in custody at the time of this release.

A defendant's guilt or innocence is to be determined by a court of law.

Officers responded Dec. 9, 2016, to a report of burglarized vehicles in 100 block of North Fifth Street. They found two vehicles with broken windows from which items inside had been removed.

Another report was filed later that day that did not involve forced entry into the motor vehicle.

During the investigation, police learned the suspects had used a debit card from one of the burglaries at a local convenience store and also had withdrawn money from a bank with it.

For immediate release

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Officers obtained and reviewed surveillance footage from one of those locations. They also began patrolling an area of North Fifth Street while attempting to identify the suspects. As the investigation developed, officers were led to the second apartment at 421 N. Fifth St., where the two suspects lived.

A check for active warrants revealed that Joseph Peters had a warrant for his arrest through Arkansas City Municipal Court. Inside, Marcus Peters was found in possession of stolen property.

Police applied for and were granted an initial search warrant through Cowley County District Court.

During a search of the apartment, additional items of evidence were located and recovered in connection with the current cases, as well as other cases spanning from Arkansas City to Wichita.

Police continued to investigate the incidents and gathered additional information that led officers to apply for and receive a second search warrant on Dec. 27, 2016.

That search turned up evidence of additional car burglary and theft, along with items associated with drug use. Three people were detained, interviewed and released by police, pending further investigation.

Charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine and possession of stolen property all are possible in connection with the most recent search warrant.

Four total Arkansas City vehicle burglary cases are connected to this investigation, with 10 additional cases being investigated in outside jurisdictions.

All of these cases remain under investigation and anyone with further information about them is asked to call Arkansas City Police Department Lt. Eric Burr at (620) 441-4444.

Those wishing to remain anonymous may contact Cowley County Crime Stoppers, which offers rewards of up to \$2,000 for information leading to an arrest.

Call (620) 442-7777 in Ark City or (620) 221-7777 in Winfield, or visit www.tipsubmit.com to make an anonymous report. An anonymous tip also can be submitted by texting ACTIPS to 847411.

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