



CITY OF DORAL

Office of the City Manager

Letter to Council

LTC No.: 122-2017

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Edward A. Rojas, City Manager

Date: October 24th, 2017

Subject: **Criminal Investigation Section Arrests**

This Letter to Council (LTC) is to inform the Mayor and City Council-members of significant arrests conducted by the Doral Police Department (DPD) during the past several days. The arrests occurred after the formation of a Task Force at the beginning of this new fiscal year. The Task Force utilized personnel, equipment and resources that was approved by the City Council in the 2017-18 fiscal budget. The Task Force consists of sixteen (16) Police Officers which include, plain clothes Officers, Bike Units, and K-9 Units. Numerous field interviews, traffic stops and occupied vehicle checks have been conducted. As a result, the Task Force has made a number of significant arrests. As always, the safety of our residents is our number one priority.

October 23rd

On Monday, October 23rd, 2017, at approximately 1:30 a.m. detectives were conducting area checks in the Netherlands community of Islands of Doral where two subjects were seen walking around with book bags. As a detective approached the subjects for questioning, one of them immediately fled from the officer. The remaining subject was detained and questioned about his presence. The subject advised that he was visiting a friend who lived in the Doral Isles community but he was unsure of his name or his exact address. A brief "Be On The Lookout" (BOLO) was broadcast for the fleeing subject.

Meanwhile, a white rented Jeep was stopped by road patrol officer for a traffic violation. The detective on scene questioned the driver as he matched the description of the fleeing subject. The detective who was also on scene was able to determine that there was an association with the subject that was detained. The driver advised that he had left his friend at the Netherlands community and that their intention was to commit “car hops” (vehicle burglaries). Further investigation revealed several items in the rear storage of the jeep along with miscellaneous credit cards, Social Security cards and checks. The ID card for the first subject was also found in the vehicle.

Detectives were able to locate the victim of the stolen items based on the property description. The victim was contacted and claimed much of the stolen property as being taken from his vehicle. Both subjects were transported to DPD for formal interviews and one adult subject confessed that since October 10th he had committed over (40) vehicle burglaries in the City of Doral. A total of four subjects were arrested and undoubtedly numerous vehicle burglaries were prevented.

October 23rd

Police Units were dispatched to a theft in progress at JC Penney’s, located in International Mall (1603 N.W. 107 Ave.). Loss prevention advised they had three subjects on surveillance that were shoplifting. They observed a black male holding a bag and walking along the store with two females. The two females (Adult & Juvenile) would select merchandise from display and place it in the male’s bag. All three subjects exited the store with \$ 774.50 worth of merchandise. The subjects had placed aluminum foil on the alarms to prevent detection.

All three subjects were apprehended while getting into their vehicle on the eastside parking lot. All three subjects were related. The adult female is the mother of the juvenile and the black male is her boyfriend. The male was in possession of narcotics at the time of his arrest.

October 22nd

Police Units were summoned to the Hampton Inn Hotel located at 3620 N.W. 79th Avenue, regarding an Armed Robbery. The investigation revealed that at approximately 6:30 p.m. the victim arranged to meet with a female, via Craigslist.com, for prostitution purposes. The victim intended to pay the female \$60 for sex. The female instructed the victim to enter the hotel lobby, take the elevator to the sixth (6) floor and then call her when he was outside the elevator. The victim and the female were communicating via KIK app, a social media phone application.

Once the victim arrived and was outside the elevator on the sixth floor, he began to communicate with the female. The female asked the victim to leave the money on top of the ice machine located on that floor and was then instructed to walk to the lobby and FaceTime her to prove that he was no longer on the sixth floor. The victim pretended to have left the money

and go to the lobby, but he never left the sixth floor and he never left the money on the ice machine. Once the victim realized that the female was acting suspiciously, he decided to leave the hotel and walked back to the elevator. While walking towards the elevator, the victim advised the female that he was going back to the sixth floor to get his money and leave.

The victim then began to hear what he described as someone running towards him. Suddenly a white male, later identified as Mr. Alexander Ward, struck the victim in the head. The victim fell and then a second male, later identified as Mr. Samuel Almanzar, began to hit the victim as well. One of the males was screaming, "Get that, get that" as they attempted to strip the victims gold bracelet and ring from his right hand. The victim began to fight back, and then Mr. Ward exhibited a black firearm that he was concealing inside his waistband. Mr. Ward struck the victim with the handgun on the back of his head several times causing three separate lacerations. Once the victim saw the firearm, he began to fear for his life.

The subjects left the victim bleeding on the floor and ran towards the stairs. The victim entered the elevator and went towards the lobby realizing that he was stripped of his phone during the robbery and was not able to call 911. The night clerk at the hotel was able to call 911 for the victim and DPD was notified. The victim was missing \$60 in U.S. currency and a rose gold iPhone 6.

Upon arrival, Detectives and patrol officers established a perimeter around the hotel. During this event, the two males were observed by police walking out of the hotel's north side door into the parking lot. The subjects were detained for further investigation.

The victim positively identified the subjects as the men that robbed him inside the hotel. Once the victim made a positive identification, both males were placed under arrest. The victim's property was also recovered inside one of the offender's bag. Both subjects were charged with Robbery.

c: Albert P. Childress, Deputy City Manager
 Donald W. De Lucca, Police Chief
 Brian Sliman, Deputy City Manager