



CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

October 22, 2020

Chatham County Police Department Takes Two Suspects into Custody after Early Morning Crime Spree

Chatham County, GA (October 22, 2020) – The Chatham County Police Department (CCPD) has arrested two suspects after an early morning crime spree.

Detectives arrested 20-year-old Jonathan Bethel and 18-year-old Michael Stubbs in connection with a string of crimes that happened during the early morning hours of Thursday, October 22, 2020. Bethel and Stubbs have both been charged with first degree burglary.

CCPD officers were dispatched to a residence on Garmany Lane, and another on nearby Waite Drive after residents reported seeing two men dressed in all black attempting to burglarize houses. No entry was made at either of those locations.

CCPD officers began to canvas the area looking for the suspects and any sign of criminal activity, when an officer spotted an open car door at another residence on Waite Drive. The officer made contact with the owner, who confirmed the auto had been illegally entered. The officer found additional vehicles that had been entered as he continued his canvas of the area.

During the canvas of the neighborhood, CCPD officers were dispatched to a nearby home on Elizabeth Circle for a report of a burglary in progress, with the homeowner holding the suspect at gunpoint. Officers arrived and arrested Stubbs without incident.

After Stubbs was arrested, a subsequent investigation identified Bethel as his accomplice. Bethel was then arrested at his residence. During their investigation, detectives also located various items of evidentiary value.

Both Stubbs and Bethel were transported to the Chatham County Detention Center.

This investigation is ongoing, and detectives are still working to determine whether any other property was entered or taken. CCPD is asking all residents in the vicinity to check their property

and vehicles for any signs of a burglary or attempted burglary. They are also asking residents to review surveillance footage for suspicious activity.

Anyone who has any information that may be helpful in the investigation can call Chatham County Police Detectives at 912-651-4717 or CrimeStoppers at 912-234-2020. Tipsters are anonymous and may qualify for a cash reward.

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