

NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release

March 29, 2022

Chatham County Police Department Investigating Facebook Marketplace-Related Armed Robberies

Chatham County, GA -- (March 29, 2022) — The Chatham County Police Department is investigating two armed robberies related to sales on Facebook Marketplace.

Both cases involve a vehicle for sale on Facebook Marketplace. In the first case, a victim was told to meet the seller on March 27, 2022. When the victim arrived, they were advised that the location had changed and were directed to several different addresses. When the victim met with the group of men posing as the sellers, they were robbed at gunpoint.

In the second case, the victim was told to meet the seller at a specific location on March 28, 2022. After arriving, the victim was directed to multiple other locations before finally meeting up with a group of several men who then robbed the victim at gunpoint. No one was injured in either incident.

Detectives are investigating, and are still working to gather a detailed description of the suspects. In the meantime, detectives say there are steps you can take to protect yourself if meeting someone to conduct a purchase for an item found on Facebook Marketplace, or any other online person-to-person sales sight. All meetings should happen in the daytime and in a public place. If the item is valuable and a significant amount of cash is to be exchanged, it is best to conduct the transaction in the parking lot of a police precinct. If a seller acts suspicious, or changes the location of the sale, do not meet them. Also, avoid meeting sellers when you are alone.

Anyone who believes they have information about these crimes is asked to call Chatham County Police Department Detectives at 912-651-4717 or contact them through the department's online tip form found here: <u>https://police.chathamcountyga.gov/Tips</u>. They can also call Crime Stoppers at 912-234-2020, where tipsters are anonymous and may qualify for a cash reward.

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Chatham County Police Department 912-675-2949