



TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

"Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing"

Jeffrey P. Young
CHIEF OF POLICE

On 06/21/21 at approximately 2245 hrs. officers with the Tarpon Springs Police Department responded to a call of an in progress vehicle burglary in the 700 block of Driftwood Ln. PCSO K9 and an air unit assisted officers and a 17 year old Hispanic male, Jose Antonio Lopez, 01/17/2004 was taken into custody as a result of the investigation. Lopez was charged with one count of burglary (conveyance). Subsequent investigation developed two additional juvenile suspects.

On June 22, 2021 at approximately 4:35 am officers responded to the 700 block of Lincoln Avenue in reference to a report of a vehicle burglary. During the course of this burglary a Smith and Wesson .380 M&P pistol was taken from the unlocked vehicle. The suspects also stole two bicycles. A subsequent canvas of the area revealed the suspects had burglarized multiple vehicles in the area.

Officers and Detectives of the Tarpon Springs Police Department were able to develop a 16 year old white Male, Garrett Matthew Grondell W/M 11/18/2004, and a 14 year old white male, Andrew James Lakey W/M 01/29/2007 as suspects.

Patrol officers conducted an extensive search for the suspects, which resulted in them being located hiding in bushes near the intersection of Meres Boulevard and Lynlea Lane. The firearm that had been stolen from the vehicle burglary earlier was recovered within the bushes where the suspects were apprehended. The two bicycles that had been stolen were also recovered.

Grondell and Lakey were both charged with 1 count of burglary (conveyance) and 1 count of grand theft auto.

The investigation has been taken over by the Tarpon Springs Police Department Detective Unit. The investigation is continuing and additional charges are pending.



444 S. HUEY AVENUE, TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689 - PHONE: (727) 938-2849

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Anyone with information is asked to contact the Tarpon Springs Police Department Detective Unit at 727-938-2849.

Tarpon Springs Police Department would like to also remind our citizens to lock your vehicles to deter this type of criminal activity. Do not leave firearms or other valuables in your vehicle.

No other information is available to release at this time.

Sgt. Ed Miller

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