



Town of Wallingford, Connecticut
Department of Police Services

JOHN J. VENTURA
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-For Immediate Release-

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Purse Snatching/Stolen Motor Vehicle Investigations

On December 12, 2022, at approximately 1:37 PM the Wallingford Police Department Patrol Division was dispatched to the area of Walmart located at 844 North Colony Road for a reported silver vehicle in the area operating in an erratic and unsafe manner. While responding to the incident the Wallingford Emergency Communications Center received multiple 911 calls indicating that an individual was struck by a vehicle inside the Walmart Parking lot. Upon arrival, it was learned that the individual was a victim of a purse snatching and had fallen to the ground when the suspects accelerated their vehicle while attempting to take the purse from her which they ultimately succeeded in doing. The vehicle involved in this incident matched the description of the erratic vehicle that patrol units initially were called to investigate.

As Wallingford Patrol and Detective units were investigating this incident, additional 911 calls were received indicating that an individual was struck in the parking lot of Shop Rite located at 846 North Colony Rd. Additional Wallingford Police officers responded to the scene and located an individual who stated that they just had their purse stolen and information obtained indicated the vehicle involved matched the description of the vehicle involved in the purse snatching at Walmart.

At 1:47 PM, Wallingford Patrol Units responded to Cumberland Farms located at 906 North Colony Rd. for a reported theft of a motor vehicle. The victim stated that while he was inside Cumberland Farms his 2017 Toyota Prius was stolen. Information obtained from witnesses linked the theft of the Prius to the silver vehicle that was believed to be responsible for the previous two purse snatchings in the area. Wallingford Police Units located the Toyota Prius traveling on North Main St. Extension and attempted to stop the vehicle but it fled at a high rate of speed.

The Toyota Prius was entered into the COLLECT system as stolen and was subsequently involved in multiple similar incidents in Hamden and Meriden. The Wallingford Police Department Investigative Services Unit is conducting the investigation of this incident and asks



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anyone with information to contact the Wallingford Police Department at 203-294-2845 or can visit the Wallingford Police Department Website at www.police.wallingfordct.gov where they can leave an anonymous tip.

The Wallingford Police Department advises its residents to be mindful of their surroundings, especially in crowded shopping centers. Always lock your vehicle and keep valuables out of sight. When at the gas pumps refrain from leaving anything of value on the seats and lock your vehicle while pumping gas.