

## News Release 12/12/14

On Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 1:28 PM officers from the Smyrna Police Department responded to the PNC Bank located at 7 South Main Street for a reported identity theft and attempted fraud. Investigators responded and determined that a white female suspect provided a Delaware driver's license and PNC bank card to the bank teller and deposited large sum of money into an account in the form of a check. Investigators determined that the Delaware identification and bank card was stolen in a vehicle break in within the City of Dover on November 22, 2014 and the check was forged and stolen from the state of Virginia. Investigators worked with PNC representatives to place a hold on the check and then were asked to contact the authorities if they returned. On Thursday, December 11, at approximately 10:30 AM the Smyrna Police Department received information that the suspects had returned to the PNC bank located at 7 South Main Street in Smyrna and were currently in the drive-thru lane attempting to withdraw money from the victims account using the stolen ID and bank card. Responding officers arrived and upon seeing the marked police cars the suspects fled in the motor vehicle south onto Main Street at a high rate of speed, the suspects then led officers on a vehicle pursuit where they disregarded the safety of other motorists by operating at speeds in excess of 80-100 mph, failed to stop at red lights, and passed other motorists on the shoulder. The suspects traveled south on US13 and entered the limits of the City of Dover and in the area of the Dover Mall lost control of their motor vehicle crossing into the northbound lanes of traffic and struck an oncoming motorists causing minor damage to the other vehicle. The suspects then both exited the vehicle before it was completely stopped and began to run on foot towards the Dover Mall where they were almost immediately taken into custody by responding officers. The female suspect reported minor injuries on scene and was transported to the Kent General Hospital where she was treated and released, no other injuries were reported.

Karen R. Darell, 38, of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida was arrested for resisting arrest. Detectives from the Smyrna Police Department are in the process of obtaining a warrant for two (2) counts of identity theft, forgery 2nd degree, conspiracy 2nd degree and theft over \$1500. Darell was also found to have warrants out of the State of Florida for her arrest.

Norris J. Farlow, 53, of Lake City, Florida was arrested for disregarding a police officer signal, resisting arrest, reckless driving, six (6) counts driving vehicle at unreasonable speed, four (4) counts of failure to stop at a red light, seven (7) counts of failure to signal, five (5) counts of passing on the right, reckless endangering 2nd degree. Detectives from the Smyrna Police Department are in the process of obtaining warrants for two (2) counts of identity theft, forgery 2nd degree, conspiracy 2nd degree and theft over \$1500. Farlow was also found to have warrants out the State of Florida for his arrest.

The Dover Police Department responded to the scene and provided traffic control and investigated the motor vehicle accident citing the operator of the motor vehicle with multiple traffic related charges.

The suspects scam consisted of stealing checks from one victim and using those checks to deposit large amounts into another victims account and then using stolen identity information (such as state ID's or licenses and bank cards) to withdraw the money back out of the same

accounts. Individuals such as this prey upon victims who leave items of value and forms of identification in their vehicle, we continue to encourage all citizens to not leave any items of value inside your motor vehicle or hide these items in your locked trunked when all possible.

The Smyrna Police Department would like to thank the Dover Police Department for their assistance and the Delaware State University Police Department for their quick response.

At the time of this news release no bail information was available.