



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

250 Cypress Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

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Chief of Police

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PRESS RELEASE

Releasing Officer: Officer Thomas N. O'Neal
Report Number: FG1800111
Date / Time Incident: January 23, 2018 / 1:13 a.m.
Location of Incident: 200 Block of N. McPherson Street
Crime or Incident: 11350 HS (Possession of Opiates), 11364 HS (Possession of Paraphernalia), 496(a) PC (Possession of Stolen Property)
Suspects: Elias Rutherford, 29 years of age, Fort Bragg CA, Shalom Lewis, 21 years of age
Victims: State of California, Multiple

CIRCUMSTANCES:

On January 23, 2018, Officers of the Fort Bragg Police Department were dispatched to the parking lot near the intersection of E. Redwood Avenue and N. McPherson Street for the report of suspected controlled substance use associated with a dark colored sedan. On scene, Officers located Shalom Lewis and Elias Rutherford inside of the suspect vehicle. Upon initial contact Officers identified evidence that Lewis and Rutherford had just consumed or were in the process of consuming heroin.

Based on the initial observations and both suspects being on local probation with search waivers, a search of the vehicle was conducted. During that search, Officers located various paraphernalia used in the consumption of controlled substances and three separate containers containing small amounts of suspected heroin. Officers additionally located several checks written to various businesses and individuals residing in both the unincorporated county and city limits. Both suspects were arrested for the above listed crimes and transported to the Mendocino County Jail.

An investigation was initiated involving the suspected stolen checks and several victims were identified and contacted. After speaking with victims and as the investigation proceeded, Officers were able to determine that the recovered checks were stolen from various mailboxes during the month of December, 2017. No evidence has been identified that any of the stolen checks were successfully cashed or deposited. All victims related to the recovered checks have been identified and contacted.

If you live outside of the Fort Bragg city limits and have evidence that you were the victim of mail theft, please contact the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. Victims living inside of the city limits may contact the Fort Bragg Police Department at (707) 964-0200. Questions about this press release may be directed to Officer O'Neal at (707) 961-2800 ext. 167 or at toneal@fortbragg.com

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