



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



Media Relations Information for 08/10/2017

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LPPD arrests four in Jugging

Demontrae Hart
07/08/1996

Windell Smith
01/15/1997

Daisia Morris
11/13/1997

Ashley Soliz
02/02/1997

On Saturday, August 5th, 2017 the La Porte Police Department received a report of a Burglary of a Motor Vehicle which occurred in the Fairmont East subdivision located in La Porte Texas. It was believed that the victim was targeted after leaving a local bank. Surveillance video at the home showed the vehicle owner pull into his drive way and then enter his home. Soon after, an unknown black male approaches the homeowner's vehicle, enters it, removes money from the vehicle console, and then flees in a silver or light blue four door passenger car. Accomplices are also captured on the video, driving a white Chevrolet passenger vehicle. In response to that crime, the La Porte Police Department's, Street Crimes Unit set up extra patrol during the following days to watch the parking lots of each of the banks located in the City of La Porte. That operation soon resulted in the arrest of four individuals suspected of "Jugging."

The term "**Jugging**" refers to the crime where offenders stake out bank parking lots, following bank customers when they leave the bank and then breaking into their cars or robbing them once they arrive at their next destination. Jugging has become a very common trend in the Houston area and has been the subject of several recent news stories and community advisories.

On Tuesday, August 8th, Street Crimes Detectives were watching the Wells Fargo bank parking lot located at 800 W. Fairmont and observed a vehicle, occupied by two black males (one driving and one sitting in the backseat), enter, park, and then later leave the parking lot without ever exiting the vehicle to do business at the bank. Detectives directed marked LPPD patrol officers to stop the vehicle. The occupants of the vehicle, Demontrae Hart and Windell Smith each had outstanding warrants out of Harris County. When stopped the rear-seat passenger was wearing a black hoodie over his head, gloves on his hands, and was in possession of a window punch device. While questioning the vehicle passengers a second vehicle, occupied by two female suspects, Daisia Morris and Ashley Soliz, approached the officers, inquiring about the original suspects with whom the females were acquainted with. The officers immediately noticed that the vehicle being driven by the females was the same vehicle used in the Fairmont Park East jugging incident from August 5th, 2017.

All suspects were interviewed and confessions obtained relating to the August 5th burglary incident. Although La Porte has only had one such crime in recent months, it appears that this same group of suspects, all from Baytown, may be responsible for many more such incidents involving neighboring communities. Hart, Soliz, and Morris were subsequently booked into the



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County Jail on the charge of Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity and Smith for Possession of a Criminal Instrument.

Citizens should be alert to their surroundings, report any suspicious persons or vehicles to police. Most importantly they should not leave anything of value in their vehicle even for a short period of time. This type of crime occurs in seconds and in most cases the stolen property is not recovered.