

Ft. Pierce Police Department

News Release

March 21, 2011

R. Sean Baldwin

Chief of Police



920 S. U.S. #1
Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

Fort Pierce Police Thwart Grocery Store Purse Theft- Money Recovered- Three Arrested

On Sunday March 20, 2011 the Fort Pierce Police Department responded to 2604 South US#1 regarding the theft of a woman's purse while she was shopping in the freezer aisle of the grocery store. The woman, along with Publix officials reported that a man had grabbed her purse from her shopping cart while she was reaching into the freezer at the store. The woman noticed her purse was missing when she approached the checkout aisle.

Publix officials alertly used their surveillance video system to spot a man that was seen running out of the store with something in his hand. Fort Pierce Police Officers spotted a man matching the description in the area and detained him. The man, Michael Reed (7-24-1982) was identified by Publix personnel as the person that ran out of the store and was subsequently arrested for the crime. When asked about the money that was inside the woman's purse, Reed told officers that he "never saw" any money. At that time the purse was recovered, without the money to the woman. Reed was transported to the jail.

A short time later, Reed was at the St. Lucie County Jail and was overheard talking on the telephone by St. Lucie County Deputy James Krause. Deputy Krause notified Fort Pierce Police Officer Melissa Martin that Reed was telling a person on the other end of the telephone to go get the money that he left in the bushes by the McDonalds (US#1).

Fort Pierce Police Officer Melissa Martin and Sergeant Brian Macnaught immediately responded to the area of the McDonalds, where they found Alice Bailey (10-4-1955) and Roni Bailey (3-16-1985) looking for the money in the bushes. While the two initially denied having knowledge that the money was stolen, officers eventually found out that Roni Bailey was the person who had received the telephone call about the stolen money and knew the money was taken during a theft. Both Alice and Roni Bailey were arrested and the money (\$497.00) was located in the bushes.

Booking Photos and Arrest reports attached.

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