



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



Public Affairs Specialist Jessica King

410.520.5395: News Media Information
410.723.6610: General Police Information
443.235.4420: Public Affairs Cell Phone

Public Affairs Officer Michael Levy

410.723.6665: News Media Information
410.723.6610: General Police Information
443.235.4446: Public Affairs Cell Phone

For Immediate Release:

OBSERVANT CITIZENS HELP OCPD CATCH OASIS CAR WASH THIEF

On June 7, 2009, at approximately 03:40 a.m., a citizen contacted the Ocean City Police about a suspicious person in the area of the Oasis Car Wash, located at 7201 Coastal Highway. Shortly after receiving the first report, a second caller stated they saw a male using a crowbar in an attempt to break into a cash terminal at the Oasis Car Wash.

OCPD officers responded to the area and observed a male who matched the description previously provided by the callers, near one of the car wash bays. Upon seeing responding police, the suspect attempted to flee the area. A short foot pursuit ensued and the male was taken into custody. The suspect, who has been identified as Joseph Edward Walthour, 40, is from Willingboro, New Jersey.

During the on-scene investigation, OCPD officers located the crowbar and a pair of pliers that fell out of the suspect's pocket while being taken into custody. The suspect was positively identified by witnesses. During the on-scene investigation the suspect admitted to police that he was attempting to break into the car wash cash terminals. Police determined the manner in which Walthour had attempted to burglarize the car cash terminal on this night, was consistent with how the business has been burglarized in the past.

The investigation by OCPD detectives concluded Walthour has been involved in at least 8 thefts from the cash terminal of the Oasis Car Wash since June 2007. Walthour has been charged with over 32 criminal charges including: Felony Theft, Felony Theft Scheme, and Malicious Destruction of Property over \$500, Possession of Burglary Tools and 4th Degree Burglary.

Walthour was taken before an Ocean City District Court Commissioner and is being held on a total of \$35,000 bond. Walthour is also being held without bond, relating to out of state Arrest Warrants from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Walthour has been transferred to the Worcester County Jail.

June 7, 2009

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Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. OCPD@ococcean.com

