



WINCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

June 23, 2010

On Wednesday June 23, 2010 at approximately 1000 a.m. Winchester Police were called to the parking lot of Martins food store located at 2076 South Pleasant Valley road to a report of a purse snatching. Upon arriving at the scene, officers spoke with the victim who reported that a white male in his 20's approached her vehicle on foot while she was still inside of it. The victim stated she lowered the passenger side window and the suspect asked her for the location of a city street. The victim said the suspect then reached into her vehicle and grabbed her purse which was lying on the passenger seat. The suspect then fled on foot northbound across the parking lot and into a wooded area that separates the parking lot and Apple Blossom mall.

The suspect was described as a white male in his 20's with a tall and thin build. He was wearing red, white, and blue basketball shorts, a blue t-shirt, white tennis shoes, and a white baseball hat that was turned sideways. Officers searched the area by vehicle and by foot and were unable to locate any persons matching the description. There was no report of any type of weapon displayed and the victim was not injured. Anyone with further information is asked to contact the Winchester Police Department Criminal Investigations Division at 540-545-4704 or Crimesolvers at 540-665-TIPS (8477).

The Winchester Police Department would like to remind citizens to be alert to any suspicious persons they may encounter and to report any suspicious activity.

This media release was prepared by Sergeant Mark Lahman at 540-545-7548 (office), or 540-974-7415 (cell), or mlahman@ci.winchester.va.us (email).

The Winchester Police Department is committed to improving the quality of life for all people by preventing crime in the city. We will accomplish this by enforcing the law with impartiality, creating partnerships through communication, education, and problem solving using innovative policing strategies.