



Vol. 3 Issue 7 July 2020

# IMPACT UPDATE

Protecting, Preventing, Providing

Larry Hogan

Boyd K. Rutherford

Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III

Governor

Lt. Governor

Superintendent

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MSP is looking for female high school juniors and seniors interested in a career in law enforcement to attend a seminar Aug. 21-23.

## MSP To Host Seminar For Females Interested In Law Enforcement Careers

(PIKESVILLE, MD) In recognition of Governor Hogan proclaiming 2020 the Year of the Woman in Maryland, the Department of State Police will host the Year of the Woman: 2020 Youth Leadership and Law Enforcement Seminar.

The program is open to female high school juniors, seniors or seniors entering college who are interested in a career in criminal justice. Our goal is to select a participant from each county and Baltimore City.

The overnight immersion event will be held at the Maryland State Police Academy in Sykesville, Maryland, Aug. 21-23, 2020.

Attendees will be mentored by active sworn female members of the Maryland State Police, along with civilian employees, who will provide instruction in military etiquette, fitness, and MSP history and other topics related to leadership and law enforcement.

This unique opportunity is free of charge. Prospective attendees are required to complete an application and submit a two-page essay or two-minute video presentation. For more information visit:

[www.mdsp.maryland.gov](http://www.mdsp.maryland.gov) and click on 2020 Youth Leadership & Law Enforcement Seminar.



# IMPACT UPDATE

## Troopers Help Celebrate High School Graduation Of Fallen Hero's Nephew



Sgt. Smith (left) of the College Park Barrack and Trooper Smith (right) of the Forestville Barrack celebrate the graduation of Markel Hooper.

We would like to congratulate Markel Hooper, nephew of Maryland State Police Fallen Hero TFC Wesley Brown, on graduating from Fairmount Heights High School. We are honored we had the opportunity to be a part of your special day.

TFC Brown was fatally shot on June 11, 2010 while working an off duty security detail at a restaurant in Forestville, Maryland. Learn more about MSP's Fallen Heroes at <https://mdsp.maryland.gov/Pages/FallenHeroes.aspx>

## Fentanyl Headed To MD Recovered During I-95 Traffic Stop

(PERRYVILLE, MD) — During a traffic stop June 3rd on I-95 in Cecil County, Maryland State Police arrested a New York man and recovered heroin and a significant amount of fentanyl that the investigation indicates was destined for sale in Maryland.

The suspect is identified as Carlos F. De La Cruz, 33, of Bronx, NY. He is charged with importation of fentanyl into the state, possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, possession of a large amount of narcotic, possession of fentanyl, importation of heroin into the state, possession with intent to distribute heroin and possession of heroin.

De La Cruz was transported to the Cecil County Detention Center, where he was being held without



bond.

Shortly after 2 p.m. on June 3rd, a Maryland state trooper stopped a car for speeding that was traveling south on I-95 north of Perryville, in Cecil County. Based on indications of criminal activity, a K-9 drug detection team responded and the dog gave a positive alert for the presence of drugs in the vehicle.

A search of the car revealed hidden compartments operated by hydraulic pistons located in the seats for the driver and right front seat passenger.

From these compartments, troopers recovered a package of suspected fentanyl weighing more than 1,100 grams, with a street value of about \$150,000. A package weighing almost 17 grams of suspected heroin was also recovered.

The preliminary investigation by troopers developed information indicating the fentanyl and heroin were being transported from New York to Maryland for street sales. Assistance in the ongoing investigation is being provided by the Cecil County Drug Task Force.



# IMPACT UPDATE

## Maryland State Police Arrest Two (Again) For Copper Wire Thefts From Highway Light Poles

(PIKESVILLE, MD) – Maryland State Police arrested two men early on May 27th in connection with the theft of copper wire from light poles along highways in Baltimore County.

The accused are identified as Joseph Wetzel, 45, and Mark Brunelle, 53, both of Brooklyn Maryland. Each are charged with four counts of felony theft, five counts of malicious destruction of property and one count of felony theft scheme \$25,000-\$100,000.

The arrests came following a months-long investigation into copper wire thefts from light poles around I-695.

According to a preliminary investigation, troopers from the Maryland State Police Golden Ring Barrack arrested the suspects around 4:20 a.m. May 27th, following a suspected theft of copper wire from a light pole at I-695 and Falls Road.

Wetzel and Brunelle were taken into custody at the scene without incident.

Further investigation connected the suspects to at least three other similar thefts along I-695 since



April. Investigators estimate the four suspected thefts caused \$66,000 in damage.

Troopers from the Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division led the investigation. The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration assisted Maryland State Police with the investigation.

Wetzel and Brunelle were charged in December 2019 with theft \$1,500-\$25,000, theft scheme \$1,500-\$25,000 and malicious destruction of property of more than \$1,000 for similar copper wire thefts from light poles and jersey walls in Prince George's County.

The total cost to replace the copper removed in that case was approximately \$400,000.

Another suspect, James Albert, 38, of Perryville, Maryland was charged with theft \$1,500-\$25,000, theft scheme \$1,500-\$25,000, malicious destruction of property of more than \$1,000 and possession of a controlled dangerous substance in connection with the December 2019 case.

Anyone with information on the Baltimore County case is asked to contact the Maryland State Police Golden Ring Barrack at 410-780-2700.



# IMPACT UPDATE



## Hundreds Of Citations Issued On Capital Beltway During Enforcement Initiative

(COLLEGE PARK, MD) – During a focused traffic safety enforcement initiative May 21 around the Capital Beltway, troopers issued almost 400 traffic citations and warnings for a variety of offenses, including speeds that reached 110 mph.

Throughout this initiative, troopers from the Forestville, College Park and Rockville barracks teamed up with troopers from the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division in a traffic safety initiative aimed at reducing crashes, speeding and aggressive driving on I-495.

Enforcement focused on both commercial and passenger vehicle drivers around the Beltway. Troopers issued 250 traffic citations, 144 warnings and 25 safety equipment repair orders during the

operation for a wide range of traffic offenses. Dozens of citations were issued for exceeding the posted speed limit for speeds ranging from 70-110 mph.

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division troopers conducted safety inspections of 27 tractor trailers. Troopers placed six of those commercial vehicles out of service for various violations.

During the initiative, a citizen called the Rockville Barrack and reported a possible drunk driver in the area of I-495 and I-270. Troopers converged on the area and were able to locate the vehicle and get it stopped. The driver was arrested for impaired driving.

Troopers from the College Park

Barrack conducted a traffic stop and determined the vehicle had switched tags. Further investigation determined the driver was wanted on warrants for assault in both Baltimore and Prince George's counties.

Another traffic stop by College Park Barrack troopers resulted in an arrest after troopers found marijuana and dozens of suspected oxycodone pills.

Forestville Barrack troopers stopped a vehicle and determined the driver was wanted on a warrant for motor vehicle theft. He was immediately taken into custody.

Troopers will continue to conduct initiatives to address aggressive driving throughout the state in areas of concern for motorists.



# IMPACT UPDATE

## Maryland State Police, Vehicle Theft Prevention Council Offer Tips To Secure Vehicles

(PIKESVILLE, MD) – The Maryland State Police, along with the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, are reminding motorists to take simple steps to avoid having their vehicles stolen.

The warnings come as July is National Vehicle Theft Prevention Month. In Maryland, a car is stolen every 40 minutes, while one is stolen every 45 seconds in the United States.



Overall, 50 percent of the vehicles stolen had the keys inside the vehicle while 60 percent of the vehicles stolen were left unlocked. Also, more than 66 percent of vehicle thefts occur at night and 95 percent of the vehicles stolen had no anti-theft devices.

Nationally, more than 773,000 vehicles were stolen in the United States in 2017. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety

### PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE FROM THEFT

*What You Should Know*

In the U.S., a vehicle is stolen every **41 SECONDS**

Nationally, nearly **42%** of stolen vehicles are **NEVER RECOVERED**

Thieves can **STRIP A VEHICLE** of parts in **30 MINUTES** or less

Approximately **\$5.9 BILLION** The estimated total value of **VEHICLES STOLEN** nationwide

States Where Your Vehicle Is MOST LIKELY TO BE STOLEN

1. California	6. Illinois
2. Texas	7. Ohio
3. Florida	8. Colorado
4. Washington	9. Missouri
5. Georgia	10. Arizona

\*Top 10 states with the highest numbers of vehicles reported stolen in CY 2016.

**PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE** from theft with these simple steps:

- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park
- Park in well-lit areas
- Never leave your vehicle while it's running
- Never leave keys or valuables in your vehicle

Vehicles Most Likely to be **STOLEN**

1. Honda Accord	6. Nissan Altima
2. Honda Civic	7. Toyota Corolla
3. Chevrolet Silverado	8. Ford F250
4. Toyota Camry	9. Ford Econoline
5. Ford F150	10. Chevrolet Impala

\*Top 10 reported stolen vehicles in CY 2016.

Sources: NHTSA and FBI

Revised May 2018

For more information on vehicle theft prevention and NHTSA, check out [NHTSA.gov/Theft](https://www.nhtsa.gov/Theft).

U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

**NHTSA**  
1-877-44-NHTSA

Administration, only about 59 percent of all stolen motor vehicles are ever recovered. According to the FBI, the approximate cost of vehicles stolen in the United States in 2017 totaled \$6 billion.

Here are steps you can take to prevent motor vehicle theft:

- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Do not leave the area while your vehicle is running.
- Do not leave your keys in your

vehicle.

- Always stow away your valuables.

The Maryland General Assembly created the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council in 1994 as a statewide planning and dedicated funding resource.

The Council embraces a statewide strategy directed at public awareness, vehicle theft by juveniles, law enforcement and prosecution through a grant award process.