



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

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ROBBERY
(Purse Snatch)

On October 30, 2008, Detectives Harder and Fernandez with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department received information from a source that two black male subjects were breaking into cars and stealing purses for identity theft purposes. These Detectives made notifications, set up a plan with patrol support and conducted a mobile surveillance of the suspects at various locations in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

These Detectives observed the victim, Vanessa McAtee, who is the Store Manager, exit from the Sports Authority Store located at 1901 N. Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale. McAtee was walking to her car in the parking lot on her way home from work. As the first suspect, Tyrel Doe, 11/14/92, stood as a lookout for the second suspect, Clarence Westbrook, 8/6/91, as he approached the victim. Westbrook ripped the purse from McAtee's arms and they both ran off southbound with the purse to a waiting vehicle, which they entered and drove off westbound.

The Detectives relayed this to patrol units and followed the suspects. The Detectives were able to give updates of the suspects' location with the aid of our mobile vehicle tracking device. A felony traffic stop was performed at Sunrise and Andrews at which time both Doe and Westbrook were detained. The victim, McAtee was brought to the location and positively identified Westbrook as the individual that had robbed her of her purse. In the vehicle, Detectives found McAtee's purse, driver's license and keys. Both Doe and Westbrook were taken into custody and charged with Robbery.

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