



LANCASTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

City of Lancaster
Bureau of Police, 39 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, Pa. 17603
www.lancasterpolice.com

Author: LCPD Auto Theft Unit

Contact Number: (717) 735-3301

Date: March 9, 2011

Auto Theft Arrest

On March 3, 2011 at about 2030 Hrs Officers of Platoon A of the Lancaster Bureau of Police were investigating a reported theft of a 2003 Buick Century from the Prince St Parking Garage, 111 N Prince St.. During the course of the investigation a Lancaster Parking Authority employee indicated he had observed a subject driving the vehicle in the garage. The employee was able to locate the vehicle, with the subject still behind the wheel, parked in the garage. Officer Adam Flurry took the driver into custody without incident. The driver was identified as:

Richard Anthony Garcia-Flores 24-year-old male
Homeless

The Lancaster City Police Auto Theft Unit was notified of the arrest. The Auto Theft Unit was investigating Garcia-Flores as a suspect in a previous theft of a 2003 Toyota Camry from the area of the Lancaster Train Station, 55 McGovern Ave. Detectives from the Auto Theft Unit interviewed Garcia-Flores and as a result Detective Heather Halstead charged Garcia-Flores with the following offenses:

- (4) counts Theft by Unlawful Taking (motor vehicle) (F3)
- (2) counts Criminal Attempt (Theft by Unlawful Taking (motor vehicle)) (F3)
- (1) count Possessing Instruments of Crime (M1)
- (1) count Criminal Mischief (M3)

Garcia-Flores was found to have also stolen a 2000 Volkswagen in East Lampeter Twp., and a Toyota Rav4 from the area of the 300 Blk N Water St, Lancaster City. Garcia-Flores was also found to have attempted to steal a Mazda 626 and a second Toyota Rav4. After being unable to start the second Toyota Rav4 Garcia-Flores spray-painted the interior of the vehicle with blue paint in an attempt to destroy evidence. The investigation is on-going and more charges are likely. It was learned that Garcia-Flores had specifically targeted parking garages and parking lots while committing thefts from vehicles. Garcia-Flores would attempt to locate unlocked vehicles and remove electronic devices that were left in the vehicle. It is estimated that Garcia-Flores had entered over 500 vehicles since December 2010 in Lancaster City, Manheim Twp., and East Lampeter Twp. At this time it appears that all of the vehicles were unlocked and no force was used to gain entry to the vehicles. It was estimated that 30-50% of the vehicles entered contained an electronic device such as an Ipod, GPS navigation unit, laptop computer, or cellular telephone. Garcia-Flores would steal vehicles if he was able to locate a key for the vehicle



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that had been left in the vehicle.

The Lancaster Bureau of Police would like to remind citizens to remove electronics and other valuables from their vehicles and to lock their cars. Citizens are also reminded to remove all keys from their vehicles including any valet keys and hidden keys.

Anyone who was victim of a theft of an electronic device from a vehicle parked in a parking garage in Lancaster City between December 2010 and March 2011, and did not file a report already with the police department, is encouraged to come forward. You may contact the Lancaster City Police Auto Theft Unit at 717-735-3301.

All persons accused of a crime are considered innocent until proven guilty in court.

(end of release)