



Fayette County Sheriff's Office

Barry H. Babb, Sheriff

Press Information

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AUTO THEFT / 2ND SUSPECT IN CUSTODY

On Friday February 13, 2015 at approximately 8:00 am, Fayette County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a residence in the 200 block of White Tail Court in north Fayette County to investigate a stolen auto. The victim told deputies the car was left warming in the driveway and upon returning from inside the house, the 2015 Toyota Camry was exiting the driveway with a black male in the driver's seat. The victim stated that a black in color vehicle was following behind the Camry and the black male driver was seen on the street before he had gone back into the residence. Investigators believe this black vehicle was the same car observed by a witness in the area of another vehicle theft on January 28, on Briers Ridge approximately one mile away.

Deputies were able to track the vehicle by GPS to an apartment complex at 4590 Washington Road in Atlanta. Sheriff Babb was able to locate the stolen vehicle unoccupied and backed into a parking spot at the Vesta Gardens Apartments at 4590 Washington Road in Fulton County. Sheriff Babb and units from (CID) Criminal Investigations Division set up surveillance of the Camry and a short time later a black Volkswagen Jetta occupied by two black males entered the apartment complex and parked next to the stolen Camry. The passenger of the black VW placed something inside the stolen Camry and returned to the black VW. Sheriff Babb and Investigators attempted to block in the black VW to prevent escape. The passenger exited the vehicle and attempted to flee but after a short foot chase was apprehended and taken into custody by Sheriff Babb and other CID units. The passenger was armed with a handgun which he had on his person and attempted to gain control of during the foot pursuit. The second suspect fled on foot and was not apprehended.

The suspect in custody, 21 year old Paul Edward Chapman of Atlanta was transported to the Fayette County Jail and his being held with no bond. Chapman is charged with Theft by Taking (motor vehicle). Other charges are pending in Fulton County.

UPDATE

The second suspect involved in the February 13, 2015 car theft from White tail Court in north Fayette County has been apprehended. In the early morning hours on Wednesday March 4, 2015, US Marshalls executed a felony arrest warrant at the Diplomat apartments located at 2700 Camp Creek Parkway, College Park, Georgia. 22 year old Fernando Bennefield, Aka "Smoochie" of Atlanta, was taken into custody without incident. Bennefield was wanted out of College Park, Georgia for murder which occurred at the West Cove Apartments in College Park on October 3, 2014.

Fayette County Sheriff's Detectives have been working diligently to solve the recent car thefts in Fayette County and have connected Bennefield to three Fayette County car thefts and a burglary which occurred in January and February. Bennefield is currently being held in the Fulton County Jail.

**** Please attribute any quotes in this release to Sheriff Barry H. Babb ****

