



Warren C. Evans
Sheriff

News Release

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ACTION auto theft team recovers 2 carjacked vehicles during undercover purchase

◆ *Man selling car matches description of suspect in at least one armed theft*

Investigators with Wayne County's ACTION (Arresting Car Thieves In Our Neighborhoods) TEAM got more than they bargained for on Thursday when they made a deal to purchase a vehicle from a suspected car thief, Sheriff Warren C. Evans said today.



Evans said that when the suspect, Keith Holliday, 17, of Detroit, met with undercover deputies to sell them a 2002 Hyundai Sonata for \$300, they soon discovered that the car, as well as the 2006 Dodge Magnum Holliday's two associates arrived in, had been reported stolen in armed carjackings during the past week in the city of Detroit.

Investigators also say that Holliday matches the description given to Detroit police of the suspect in the March 3rd carjacking of the Magnum. The Hyundai was reported stolen on March 1, also out of Detroit.

"It's great to recover stolen vehicles, but it's far better to find the suspect with the vehicle and it appears we may have been lucky enough to do that in this case," Evans said. "It's because of solid investigations like this one that the ACTION Team has been successful in reducing auto theft complaints by more than 20 percent on the county's east side."

According to Evans, his investigators received an anonymous tip through HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) about Holliday and were able to make contact with him for the purchase of the stolen Sonata. Holliday met the officers at approximately 1PM Thursday outside a business in Grosse Pointe and exchanged the keys to the vehicle for \$300.

As arresting officers moved in, Holliday and his two associates, ages 15 and 24 and both of Detroit, fled but were all apprehended after a brief foot chase. Assisting in the arrest were officers from the cities of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Park.

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After making the arrests, officers ran checks on the two vehicles, at which time they learned they both had been reported stolen at gunpoint in the past week.

Holliday was arraigned today in Grosse Pointe court on charges of possession of a stolen motor vehicle and attempt to pass a false title. He may face additional charges in Detroit in connection with at least one of the carjackings, Evans said. He is being held at the Wayne County Jail on \$100,000 cash bond.

The ACTION Team was established in January 2007 and recently received a grant through the Michigan Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) to fully fund the task force. The ACTION team consists of four sheriff's deputies, two Grosse Pointe Park officers and one officer from the city of Harper Woods. The team also works closely with the National Insurance Crime Bureau on auto-related fraud investigations.