



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Portage Police  
Detective Hess  
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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: 03/10/2011  
Case No. 11-3636

On March 10, 2011, the Portage Police Department investigated a police impersonation that occurred in the 7800 block of Currier Drive at approximately 12:00 p.m.

The victim, an elderly female, reported that as she was parking her car, a black female, approximately 40 to 50 years of age, approached her driver door and pulled out a wallet, flashing a gold badge. The suspect was further described as being 5'3" to 5'5", thin build, with long dark hair, wearing glasses, dressed all in black, and carrying a large, black, leather "Coach" purse.

The suspect told the elderly female (the victim) that she was being investigated for involvement in a crime and that she (the victim) needed to take the suspect to the victim's home so "the detective could see if any of the other suspects or proceeds of the crime were present." The suspect then got in the passenger side of the vehicle. In this case, the victim refused to drive to her home, and the suspect got out and fled on foot. A short time later, the suspect was observed leaving the parking lot at a high rate of speed as a passenger in an older white Chevy Malibu with a black male driver.

Five similar police impersonations have occurred since March 7, 2011 in the Kent County area. In some of those cases, the suspects were actually driven to the victims' homes. Some of the victims were told that they were cleared of the crimes but not to report the contact to anyone. The suspects have always approached the victims

in parking lots during the morning to early afternoon hours. The suspect description is very similar in all of the cases.

The Portage Police Department reminds you that their detectives would never ask to enter your car and have you drive them to your home. When in doubt about the authenticity of a police officer, call 9-1-1.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Portage Police Department at 329-4567 or Silent Observer at 343-2100, [www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com](http://www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com).

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**UPDATE:** Below is a sketch of the police impersonator from Portage. The sketch was completed by a Michigan State Police sketch artist.

