



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Portage Department
of Public Safety
Watch Commander
269-329-4567

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 11/26/12
Case No.12-19857

On November 26, 2012 at 2:25 a.m., a break-in alarm was received by Portage Department of Public Safety Dispatch for West Lake Drug in the 8800 block of Portage Road. A Portage officer was on patrol and in front of the business at the time the alarm was received. He checked the building and found that the suspects had entered through the front door, broke into the pharmacy, and they were in the process of loading a large garbage barrel with scheduled prescription narcotics, which included Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, and other prescription drugs.

A suspect vehicle was located behind a business to the south. One suspect was found hiding in the vehicle. The suspect was detained, and he said that he had come there with three other subjects from Ohio, and they were breaking into the pharmacy. A Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department tracking dog was requested to the scene, but the dog was unable to locate the other three suspects. Approximately two hours later, a Portage Department of Public Safety officer was transporting the first suspect to the department when he saw the other three suspects walking in the 8400 block of Portage Road. They were taken into custody without incident.

The four suspects are all from Ohio, and they were lodged at the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department jail pending issuance of charges. Investigators are looking at similar break-ins in other parts of the Midwest. The case remains under investigation.

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Anyone with information about this break-in, or other area pharmacy break-ins, is encouraged to contact the Portage Department of Public Safety at 329-4567 or Silent Observer at 343-2100, www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com.

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