



## NEWS RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Portage Department  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 05/20/2016

Case No. 16-7773

On May 19, 2016 at approximately 9:44 p.m., the Portage Department of Public Safety Communications Center received a report of subjects in Walmart, 8350 Shaver Road, purchasing merchandise with counterfeit currency. An officer arrived, and four suspects fled in a silver Chevrolet passenger car, southbound on Shaver Road. Officers lost sight of the car, however, located three of the suspects walking next to a business in the 1800 block of Vanderbilt.

Two of the suspects, 27- and 26-year-old males from Chicago, Illinois, were arrested for possession of counterfeit money and lodged at the Kalamazoo County Jail. The third suspect, an 18-year-old male from Chicago, Illinois, was not charged and was released. A canine from Portage Public Safety attempted a track for the fourth suspect, but was unable to locate him.

Officers cleared the scene on Vanderbilt. On May 20, 2016 at 12:56 a.m., the Portage Department of Public Safety Communications Center received a report of a stolen vehicle from the 1700 block of Vanderbilt. Due to the close proximity in time and distance from the location where the suspects were arrested, it appeared that the fourth suspect could be responsible for the theft.

The stolen car was a gold 2004 Kia Spectra. Southwest Michigan police agencies were notified of the stolen vehicle. On May 20 at approximately 3:30 a.m., the stolen vehicle was stopped and recovered in Joliet, Illinois. The driver and lone occupant appears to be the same 16-year-old male suspect that was able to escape officers on Vanderbilt.

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The suspects from this incident match the descriptions of subjects involved in multiple incidents in Kalamazoo County where counterfeit currency was passed at retail establishments.

Portage Public Safety officers continue to investigate. Anyone with information is asked to call Portage Public Safety at 329-4567 or Silent Observer at 343-2100, [www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com](http://www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com).

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