



WILLOUGHBY POLICE DEPARTMENT

~DETECTIVE BUREAU~

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Press Release

January 13, 2011

On January 12, 2011 at 4:30 AM the Willoughby Police Department responded to the 4500 block of Center Street. A resident noticed their vehicle had been rummaged through and fresh footprints in the snow. Responding officers set up a perimeter and began following the footprints.

Within a short period of time an officer on the perimeter observed the suspect emerge from a yard in the 38100 block of Wilson Avenue. The suspect apparently noticed the officer and began running through the backyards of Wilson Avenue. The officer began a foot pursuit and followed the suspect to a home in the 4300 block of Center Street. Officers made entry into the home and took the suspect/resident into custody. The suspect was identified as Lex O. Cole, age 22, of Center Street in Willoughby.

Officer's discovered that Cole had entered or attempted to enter at least 20 vehicles and several garages in the Wood Street, Wilson Avenue neighborhood. It is believed that Cole is responsible for several other similar thefts in these neighborhoods over the past few months including the theft of a firearm from a vehicle on January 06, 2011. That theft occurred in the 37600 block of Euclid Avenue.

Officers and detectives removed several items from Cole's home that may have been stolen from vehicles, yards and garages over the last few months. These items include bicycles, electronics and coins. We are asking that anyone missing property from this area of Willoughby to contact the Willoughby Detective Bureau at 440-953-4210.

Cole has been charged with (2) counts of breaking and entering (Felony 5) for entering garages on January 12, 2011. He has also been charged with breaking and entering (Felony 5) and theft of a firearm (Felony 3) for the January 06, 2011 incident.