WCS DEPUTIES END VEHICLE LARCENY SPREE
2 career criminals face 16 counts, habitual offender charges

Wayne County (November 18, 2010)—At a press conference today Sheriff Benny Napoleon announced a total of 16 counts filed against two long-time offenders accused of smashing and grabbing a woman's purse from a local gas station. After swiping the handbag from the passengers seat, the suspects drove to BP Gas Station (7501 W. Davison) and charged $60 worth of gas with the stolen credit card. They then attempted a $317.99 purchase with the stolen credit card at a Meijer store, but the transaction was declined. Shortly after *the duo brazenly returned to the station where they had filled up on stolen gas to try and hock 3 newly purchased DVD players purchased with the victim's stolen checks*. An attendant meeting with plainclothes officers alerted investigators that the suspects had returned. A search of the alleged getaway car resulted in the recovery of not only the purse taken from the original victim, but **seven (7) other women's purses tossed on the floor of the car as well**.

"People who commit crimes like this—targeting women—are predators, waiting for that split second opportunity to steal your money and your sense of security," said Sheriff Benny Napoleon. "Fortunately we were able to track them down quickly before they victimized anyone else." The two were arraigned on November 15, 2010 in 36th District Court on the following:

Dwayne Hall, 53, of Detroit:

Count 1: Breaking and Entering a Vehicle with Damage to Vehicle- 5 years and/or $10,000.00
Count 2: Personal Identifying Information-Obtain/Possess/Transfer with Intent to Commit Identity Theft- 5 years and/or $25,000.00
Count 3: Financial Transaction Device-Stealing/Retaining without Consent-4 years and/or $5,000.00
Count 4 & 5: Financial Transaction Device-Illegal Sale/Use-4 years and/or $5,000.00 (each count)
Count 6, 7, 8 & 9: Financial Transaction Device-Possession-4 years and/or $5,000.00 (each count)

-more-

Quida Brownfield, 47, of Detroit:

Count 1: Personal Identifying Information-Obtain/Possess/Transfer with Intent to Commit Identity Theft- 5
years and/or $25,000.00
Count 2 & 3: Financial Transaction Device-Illegal Sale/Use-4 years and/or $5,000.00 (each count)
Count 4, 5, 6 & 7: Financial Transaction Device-Possession-4 years and/or $5,000.00 (each count)

Hall has more than two dozen aliases, numerous arrests and convictions dating back to 1974 for charges ranging from stolen property, narcotics, robbery, burglary, assault, felony escape and larceny. **Brownfield's arrest jacket dates back to 1986 for charges of prostitution, narcotics and auto theft.** She has more than a dozen aliases. A search of two residences linked to the suspects led to the recovery of numerous retail items with the pricetags still attached. A third individual at one of the homes—a parolee—was arrested on drug charges. All three subjects are also being charged as habitual offenders.

Sheriff Benny Napoleon praised the collaborative efforts of the investigators from the **WCSO and Detroit Police Department**. The **Wayne County Prosecutor's Office** is also credited with ensuring the case was presented to a judge swiftly. However, Napoleon **warns the lengthy criminal backgrounds of the suspects show law-abiding citizens need to change *their routines* to make them less of a target for criminals.**

"As you move about this holiday season **think safety first**," said Sheriff Napoleon. "A sale is no bargain if you're harmed in the process." So Sheriff Napoleon offers these:

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

1. **Be aware of your surroundings.** Scan the perimeter as you park and leave the cell phone off.
2. **Walk or park in well-lit areas** (and only during high traffic business hours).
3. **Bring a buddy** for shopping or partying.
4. **Don't advertise your prizes!** Stow valuables in your car out of sight.

######