Owner hangs onto stolen car as it speeds away

Teen suspect arrested, faces multiple felony charges upon extradition

MARTINEZ — Authorities say a 16-year-old East Orange man stole a car and led the chase to a point where more than 40 mph was on the speedometer.

Woodrow Gibson, who faces multiple felony charges in Lower Township, was arrested for the theft of the vehicle he stole.

According to a police report, at 12:45 p.m. June 26, officers from the Lower Township Police Department observed a Ford F-150 leaving the parking lot of the Wawa convenience store northbound on Bayshore Road at a high rate of speed with a man on top of the vehicle. Shortly after, another vehicle left the parking lot appearing to go north on Bayshore Road.

Authorities said the second vehicle was being driven by a 19-year-old East Orange man as the driver of the Ford used a strap to pull himself along the roof of the car.

While pursuing the fleeing vehicle from the scene of the crash, officers were informed of multiple 911 calls regarding a vehicle stolen from the nearby Baptist Church. Authorities said patrol units responded, observing the Ford driving at speeds in excess of 90 mph with the pedestrian still atop the vehicle. Officers observed the driver of the stolen vehicle attempting to bump the man from the vehicle by aggressively accelerating across both lanes of traffic. The vehicle turned right at Fulling Mill Road, thereby throwing the man from his vehicle.

Patrol units immediately terminated pursuit of the vehicle to render medical assistance to the temporarily conscious pedestrian. The driver was identified to the officer as the owner of the stolen vehicle.

A description of the driver was provided. The vehicle was last seen driving north on White Horse Pike.

Gibson was charged with工程建设, robbery, aggravated assault, eluding, aggravated assault while eluding police, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, theft of means of conveyance, theft of moveable property and assault while eluding. 

Without amending the enabling ordinance, the city promises to improve existing kayaking areas and add new spaces to accommodate larger boats. New and improved docks and restrooms on Beach Avenue were not built even though a new downtown marina was in the works.

“People can get to the beach and back within 30 minutes.”

Sheehan said placing too much emphasis on tourism would be disservice to the city.

Sheehan explained the city is in a position to take the extra revenue from the Tourism Utility and place it in a tourism account to fund capital projects.

Mayor Zack Mullock said placing too much money in the Tourism Utility would go beyond making it solvent.

The mayor said it is very difficult to obtain an automatic place in any money above that is generated in millions of dollars. City Councilwoman Lorri Mullock said she would support using the Tourism Utility to fund capital projects and putting these funds for capital expenditures, “As a council, we should be using our money in the Tourism Utility consistently.

Sheehan said a new marina would be included in the annual municipal budget. During a meeting June 24, City Council approved a resolution to spend $445,000 for improvements to the boat launch. The bond included $275,000 for improvements to the beach launch, Promenade buildings and grounds. Sheehan said new restrooms were not built even though council approved money for the purpose.

“Coalition, we should be planning for certain projects and putting those projects in the budget.”

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