For Immediate Release
Oct 04, 2012

Update re. “Operation Midas Touch”

Arrested Suspects;

John Yates Buck, W/M, DOB 07/08/57, co-owner of Three Geckos Pawn Shop (Booking Photo Attached)

Robin Kurt Powell, W/M, DOB 05/22/61, owner of Thrift Busters (Booking Photo Pending)

The above two individuals were arrested this morning at their respective businesses as the result of Operation Midas Touch. Both were charged with four counts of Dealing in Stolen Property based on their interactions with undercover detectives.

Additional charges may be added as property found inside the two businesses is evaluated to determine if any have been reported stolen.

Previous Release****************

Detectives Conclude Pawn Shop Sting “Operation Midas Touch”

Target Locations;

Three Geckos Pawn Shop, 2312 4th Street North, St. Petersburg

Thrift Busters, 3419 32 Avenue North, St. Petersburg

This morning at approximately 10:45 a.m., detectives from the St. Petersburg Police Department’s Crimes Against Property Unit served search warrants at two pawn shops as the result of a 6 month long undercover investigation dubbed “Operation Midas Touch”.

Detective had received information from confidential sources that both locations were knowingly taking in stolen property in exchange for cash.

In the following months, undercover detectives went to both business with various items of jewelry and other valuables which they represented to the pawn shop clerks as stolen. The clerks readily accepted the property for which they paid cash and also failed to report the transaction of received property as required by law.

Detectives are on the scene of both locations at this time conducting their search of the two businesses.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org

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