Suspect Arrested in String of Robberies

Arrested Suspect: Steven Ellis Leacock, W/M, DOB of 11/16/88, Transient.

Yesterday afternoon (08/12/2014) at about 4:30 p.m., officers were called to the Family Dollar Store at 1628 18th Avenue South concerning a just occurred armed robbery. Witnesses reported that a lone male suspect entered the store and attempted to purchase a pack of gum with a credit card that was declined. He then brandished a pocket knife and threatened to stab the two clerks if they did not give him money from the register. The clerks complied and the suspect then fled from the store.

Then at about 7:05 p.m. last evening the same suspect entered the convenience store at 1000 Dr. M.L. King Street North and again produced a knife which he used to threaten the clerk. The clerk apparently struggled with the suspect who managed to take the clerk’s cell phone and some lottery tickets before fleeing store.

Lastly at approximately 7:10 p.m., the same suspect approached a woman customer inside of the Walgreens Pharmacy at 875 Dr. M.L. King Street North and attempted to rob her of her purse at knife point, but was unsuccessful and fled the store.

As a result of viewing the various store surveillance videos, officers recognized the suspect from prior contacts and were able to positively identify him as Steven Leacock.

A about 3:30 p.m. this afternoon, detectives with our CASE Unit spotted Leacock in the area of Round Lake Park at 7th Avenue North and 5th Street and took him into custody with incident. The knife used in the robberies was recovered.

Leacock will be charged with two counts of armed robbery and one count of attempted armed robbery.

I do not have access to any of the store video surveillance footage at this time.

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