



ST. PETERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT



PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNITY AWARENESS DIVISION

YOLANDA FERNANDEZ, MANAGER
727-893-7550

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Car theft arrest

Several media outlets have requested information on the arrest of several juveniles overnight in a stolen car.

Shortly before 3 a.m., an officer noticed a Toyota van in the Riviera Bay area (83rd Avenue and 8th Street) driving without headlights on. He lost sight of the van and called extra units because he suspected the passengers may be committing vehicle burglaries. Multiple officers responded and an officer tried to make a traffic stop, but the van fled. The officer didn't pursue.

Eventually, the van turned into the church at 77th Avenue North and 16th Street. An officer turned into the parking lot and watched the vehicle drive over several parking stops and into a field before it did a "U" turn and drove directly at his cruiser, coming within several feet of striking him. At that point, a pursuit was approved.

The van finally stopped after turning down a cul-de-sac in the area of 94th Avenue North and 1st Street. Four teenagers were taken into custody. The driver was 15 years old.

There were no crashes, injuries, or damage as a result of this incident. The van had been stolen earlier.

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