



TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

Public Information Officers: Capt. Josh Jones – Sgt. Jason Clark – Ofc. John Julian

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2023

CHARGES ISSUED FOR STOLEN VEHICLE ARRESTS

Troy, MI – Raphael Smith (29 years old), Demerius Hollis (30 years old), and Samuel Bender JR (32 years old) were all charged with Motor Vehicle Theft, Larceny of Personal Property from a Vehicle, Burglary, Illegal Use of a Credit Card, and Larceny of a Firearm.

After months of investigative work, detectives learned that these individuals are responsible for property thefts from hundreds of vehicles and over twenty-five stolen vehicles from all over the Detroit metro area. These crimes occurred between October 2022 through January 2023.

During the investigation, detectives were able to identify Bender as a suspect responsible for using a stolen credit card at a gas station. This credit card was original stolen from an unoccupied vehicle. Surveillance camera reviews also helped identify Smith and Hollis as occupants of several stolen vehicles. Detectives conducted surveillance and confirmed that all three subjects were involved in this ongoing crime spree.

On 12/29/2022, officers conducted search warrants at residences in Detroit where Smith and Hollis were both taken into custody. Bender was arrested by the Bloomfield Township Police Department in January of 2023. During the search warrant detectives recovered a large amount of stolen property and recovered a total of seven stolen handguns.

Raphael Smith and Demerius Hollis were charged in Oakland County 6th Circuit Court and given a bond of over a million dollars. Samuel Bender was charged in 48th District Court and is being held on a \$300,000 bond. All three subjects are being charged with Conducting a Criminal Enterprise by the Macomb County Prosecutors Office.

The Troy Police Department credits the exceptional effort of the Troy Special Investigations Unit for this complex investigation and arrests. The Special Investigations Unit is comprised of officers from the Auburn Hills Police Department, Birmingham Police Department, Bloomfield Township Police Department, Royal Oak Police Department, and Troy Police Department. These investigators work together in a collaborative, multi-jurisdictional unit that investigates criminal activity impacting the region.

We would also like to recognize the collaborative efforts of Canton Police Department, Livonia Police Department, Sterling Heights Police Department, and Michigan State Police.

Area police agencies continue to see a large influx of car break-ins, where a majority of cars are left unlocked. The Troy Police Department is reminding residents to lock your car, remove all valuables; including the key fob, and NEVER leave a firearm in your vehicle.

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Demerius Marco HOLLIS
DOB: 12/08/1993



Raphael Antonio SMITH
DOB: 01/19/1994



Samuel BENDER JR
DOB: 09/21/1991