



Chief of Police Carl Dabadie

News Release

February 14, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ARRESTS MADE IN FRAUD SCHEME

Baton Rouge Police Detectives have arrested JAYSON CARTER, 36 of 2209 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tampa, FL., and MARDASHIA HARRIS, 17 of 300 S. Walton Avenue, Tarpon Springs, FL., on several counts of fraudulent and theft incidents.

CARTER and HARRIS were seen inside of the Lowe's, 9460 Cortana Place, by a retired Baton Rouge Police Officer who observed the two repeatedly swiping several access cards for the purchase of numerous gift cards. Recognizing this as a common practice of theft operations, Baton Rouge Police responded to the area. During the course of the investigation, several access cards along with newly purchased cell phones were located in plain view of the suspect's vehicle. Investigators learned that the suspects traveled from the Tampa area and made purchases from stores around the Baton Rouge and New Orleans area. Investigators believe that the cards are altered and fictitious.

JAYSON CARTER was booked in the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison on Computer Fraud (51cts), Access Device Fraud (43cts), Monetary Instrument Abuse (43cts), Identity Theft (43cts), Felony Theft (\$14,832.51) and Resisting an Officer.

MARDASHIA HARRIS was booked in the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison on Principal to Computer Fraud (51cts), Principal to Access Device Fraud (43cts), Principal to Monetary Instrument Abuse (43cts), Principal to Identity Theft (43cts) and Felony Theft (\$14,832.51).

This investigation is ongoing, as investigators believe there are additional suspects involved. Anyone with any information is urged to contact Financial Crimes at 389-3871 or Crime Stoppers at 344-7867.

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