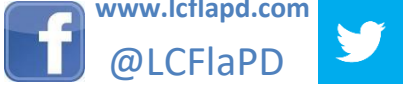


Press Release

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



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Chief of Police Gerald Butler

For Immediate Release

September 17, 2024

Greg Burnsed, Public Information Officer

Ph. (386) 247-1148

Theft of city owned benches leads to arrest

On Monday, September 16, 2024, officers from the Lake City Police Department were notified of the theft of four benches which had been placed on the city's easement for the public's use.

Detectives spoke with a witness who informed them of the location of two of the stolen benches. They were located in the witness's driveway when they returned home after attending the City of Lake City's Regular Session City Council meeting. During the meeting, Sylvester Warren III became upset with a decision made by the council and stated that he was going to remove all the benches on Marion Street north of Washington.

Detectives interviewed several witnesses and reviewed surveillance video from the area of the thefts. The video showed a white truck stopping at several locations along Marion Street. Each time the truck stopped, the driver and a passenger exited the truck, approached the benches, removed them from the easement, and placed them in the rear of the truck. In one of the surveillance videos, the driver can be seen wearing a silver hat, similar to the one Warren was wearing earlier at the City Council meeting when he made the statement.

A warrant for Warren's arrest was drafted by detectives, approved by the 3rd Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office, and reviewed and signed by a judge. Warren was located, arrested without further incident and transported to the Columbia County Detention Center.

Name: Warren III, Sylvester
DOB: 07/28/1980
Sex: Male
Race: Black
Hair: Bald
Eyes: Brown
Address: 930 NE Joe Coney Terrace, Lake City, FL 33044
Charges: 4 counts of Grand Theft



**Report information anonymously by calling the LCPD TIPS line at 386-719-2068
or Crime Stoppers of Columbia County at 386-754-7099.**

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