



Press Release

PR2021-137

EVENT: Stolen Vehicle/Possible Kidnapping
DATE: 04/26/2021 – 4/27/2021
TIME: 1435 hours to 0039 hours
LOCATION: Tiburon to I-10 between Banning and Indio California

SUSPECT: Powell, Mitchell C.
DOB: 2//05/1972
ADDRESS: Unk

FACTS: On 4-26-21, a local crossing guard flagged down a Tiburon Police officer and told the officer that a person known to him, Mitchell Powell, had borrowed his car while he was working but failed to return to pick him up as had been arranged. The crossing guard/ victim had left his cellphone in his car and had no way to contact the suspect, Powell. The investigating officer, Officer Gomez, let the victim use his cell phone to call Powell. Powell did not answer. Text messages from Powell's cellphone to the officer's cellphone suggested that Powell may have been kidnapped and was otherwise unable to return the vehicle.

Tiburon Police officers immediately initiated an investigation into the possible kidnapping and stolen vehicle. A BOL (Be-On-the-Lookout) bulletin for the vehicle was distributed to other law enforcement agencies. Sergeant Law and Officer Madfes coordinated with the California Highway Patrol to locate the stolen vehicle and Powell. During the ongoing investigation, Tiburon Police officers used available investigative resources to narrow down the vehicle's location in Southern California on I-10 between Banning and Indio, California.

An alert officer from the Indio Office of the California Highway Patrol located and made a traffic stop of the stolen vehicle. Powell was the driver and sole occupant. CHP officers placed him under arrest without incident. Follow-up investigation revealed there was nothing to corroborate that Powell had been kidnapped. Powell was booked into Riverside County Jail. The victim's car was stored for safekeeping until the victim can pick it up. This investigation is a great example of Tiburon officers acting decisively and collaborating with other law enforcement agencies to not only locate the victim's stolen vehicle, but also to ensure the suspect was not the victim of a kidnapping. Tiburon PD has offered up assistance to the victim to help him get his vehicle back.

PLEASE REFER ANY QUESTIONS TO:

Laurie K. Nilsen, Administrative and Emergency Services Coordinator (415) 789-2801.