



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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DATE : January 23, 2016

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ARREST RELEASE

On January 23, 2016 at about 3:05 a.m., Rockford Police Officers responded to the 500 block of South Central Avenue on Rockford's southwest side for a report of an armed robbery to a citizen. The victim, a 38 year old Rockford man, was walking to a friend's house when a red Dodge Durango stopped alongside him. The Durango was occupied by four black male teenagers. At least two of the suspects got out of the vehicle, pushed the victim down, and one of the suspects pointed a gun at him and demanded his money, at which point the victim fled from the suspects on foot. The suspect vehicle sped away northbound. Officers gathered a description of the suspects and the vehicle and broadcasted the description county-wide.

While the officers were still speaking with the victim, another Rockford Officer spotted a Red Dodge Durango a few blocks away and attempted to stop it, but it fled from the officers and escaped.

About twenty minutes later, M3 Streets Team Officers spotted the red Dodge Durango, a reportedly stolen auto, near 18th Avenue and Parmele Street, where they initiated a stop. The vehicle fled from the officers and they actively pursued the suspects. During the pursuit, the vehicle stopped on 18th Street and one of the suspects fled on foot. The pursuit continued to the area of Wesleyan and 20th Street, where the driver stopped in the parking lot of an apartment building. The three remaining occupants were taken into custody, while officers returned to the area of 18th Street and located the fourth suspect. Officers recovered a black BB gun from the vehicle. There were no injuries during this incident. All four suspects were brought to the Public Safety Building and Detectives, who had worked throughout the previous evening on leads related to the



armed robbery series from early in the week, were called in to conduct the follow-up investigation and interviews.

The driver, a 15 year old resident of southeast Rockford, was charged with Attempted Armed Robbery, Aggravated Battery on a Public Way, 2 counts of Aggravated Fleeing to Elude, a Juvenile Probation Warrant, and a litany of other traffic offenses.

The other three suspects, two 14 year olds and a 16 year old from northwest and southwest Rockford, were charged with Attempted Armed Robbery and Aggravated Battery on a Public Way.

Ultimately, the four suspects were lodged in the Winnebago County Juvenile Detention Center. One of the 14-year-old suspects had also been arrested the night of Tuesday, January 19 in connection with a stolen auto after the spree of armed robberies that evening.

The charges against the suspects are merely accusations and they should be considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Our investigators and officers are actively working on making connections and identifying others that may be involved. They have done tremendous work; however, we know there is more to be done. As promised during our press conference on Friday, we have our resources focused upon the apprehension of the individuals involved in the series of armed robberies that occurred early in the week and they will be brought to justice. This is an active investigation and we ask for the community's continued commitment to assist us with the investigation, and anyone with information should contact the Rockford Police Department at 779-500-6555 or Rockford Area Crime Stoppers at 815-963-7867.

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