



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

Undersheriff Sammy L. Davis

155 Lt. Van Winkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

For Immediate Release:

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

License Plate Readers Help SIU Identify and Apprehend Wanted PA Man Fleeing Through Binghamton

(BINGHAMTON, NY) A Pennsylvania man wanted for felony vehicle theft and other charges was located in Binghamton and successfully taken into custody thanks to recently installed license plate readers in Broome County.

On Monday, November 25, 2024 at approximately 2:30 PM, members of the Broome County Special Investigations Unit (SIU) Task Force were alerted to white 2017 Volkswagen Tiguan SUV repeatedly being recognized as a stolen vehicle by multiple license plate readers in the Binghamton area. Tracking recent license plate reader "hits", the investigators quickly located the vehicle in downtown Binghamton.

As the investigators performed a traffic stop and approached the stolen vehicle, the driver, later identified as Zachary D. Swire, age 32 of Tunkhannock, PA, quickly drove away in an attempt to flee.

Swire was wanted by Tunkhannock Township Police in Wyoming County, PA on two active arrest warrants for felony theft of a motor vehicle and related charges.

Ignoring the flashing emergency lights and sirens of police, Swire refused to comply and led pursuing investigators south over the State Street bridge to the Vestal Parkway/S. Washington Avenue intersection, where he appeared to have been boxed-in by traffic. When police attempted to take the Swire into custody, Swire aggressively maneuvered the stolen Volkswagen through the stopped traffic, striking multiple vehicles and driving over curbs in an attempt to escape. The pursuit continued as Swire recklessly drove south on Morgan Road, Saddlemire Road and eventually onto Hawleyton Road, where his vehicle began to emit smoke and appeared to have lost the entire front driver's side wheel.

General Information:
(607) 778-1911

Fiscal:
(607) 778-2928

Garnishees:
(607) 778-2926

Civil:
(607) 778-2145

Identification:
(607) 778-2924

Records:
(607) 778-2166

Despite the damage to his vehicle, Swire led pursuing police over the Pennsylvania border, traveling south on Route 267 and then onto Route 167. Shortly after turning west onto Town Road 673, Swire's vehicle went off the road, into a wooded area and began to slow. Upon the vehicle stopping, investigators were able to quickly take Swire into custody when he tried to flee from the vehicle on foot. Once in custody, Swire was transferred to the Pennsylvania State Police.

Following the incident, warrants have been issued and the Broome County Sheriff's Office will be charging Zachary D. Swire with the following:

- Reckless Endangerment in the 1st Degree, a Class D Felony
- Criminal Mischief in the 2nd Degree, a Class D Felony
- Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 3rd Degree, a Class D Felony
- Obstruction of Governmental Administration in the 2nd Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor

“This is an excellent example why license plate readers can play such an important role in helping keep our communities safe,” said Sheriff Fred Akshar. “My thanks to the combined efforts of our Broome County Special Investigations Unit and the Pennsylvania State Police for safely getting this individual off the streets to answer for his charges.”

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