



WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



Honor, Integrity, Pride.

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WESTFIELD POLICE CHIEF ANNOUNCES ARRESTS OF TWO (2) PERSONS FOR DEFRAUDING ELDERLY RESIDENT OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

WESTFIELD – FEBRUARY 24, 2021 – Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro has announced the recent arrest of two (2) persons on multiple criminal charges related to an on-going fraudulent scheme being perpetuated against an elderly Westfield resident.

Brandon Reyes, age 27, of Union City, and Walter Rosario, age 28, of Jersey City, were both arrested in Westfield on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at approximately 11:16 AM by detectives and uniformed patrol officers as they attempted to further defraud the victim of an additional \$40,000 in cash monies. She had already been defrauded of \$93,000.

“The amount of fraudulent activity occurring these days is overwhelming,” stated Chief Battiloro, who reported that fraudulent schemes such as this one, in which the victim thought she was providing money to an arrested relative through an attorney, are becoming increasingly commonplace.

Reyes and Rosario are believed to be part of other similar fraudulent schemes involving other unidentified perpetrators and many other victims. They have both been charged with Theft by Deception pursuant to 2C:20-4a, a third degree crime, and Criminal Attempt pursuant to 2C:5-1, also a third degree crime.

Reyes was additionally charged with two (2) counts of Unlawful Possession of a Weapon pursuant to 2C:39-5d, both fourth degree crimes. He was found to be in possession of one knife concealed on his person and another one in the vehicle he was operating at the time of his arrest.

Rosario was additionally charged with a one (1) count of Unlawful Possession of a Weapon pursuant to 2C:39-5d, a fourth degree crime. He was found to be in possession of a spring-loaded knife while a passenger in the vehicle operated by Rosario at the time of his arrest.

“Criminals are persistently targeting our most vulnerable residents. They all need to be fully aware of this fraudulent scheme and others to avoid becoming victims,” stated Chief Battiloro. “If you are suspicious, before you transfer any monies, contact the Westfield Police Department,” he urged.

Reyes and Rosario were transported to the Westfield Police Department, where they were both processed, served with complaint-summonses, and released from custody pending a future court date.

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