



NEWS RELEASE
Virginia Beach Police Department
Municipal Center
Virginia Beach, VA 23456



11/12/08

2008-163

POLICE WARN OF PARKING LOT SCAM

On Sunday, November 2, 2008, at approximately 4:47 p.m., a man was in the parking lot of the Barnes and Nobles Booksellers in the 4400 block of Virginia Beach Blvd. when he was approached by two suspects that stated that they were having car trouble. The two men requested a ride to a nearby auto store so that they could purchase parts to fix their vehicle. The victim took the men to a nearby store and after a few moments, the men came outside. The men claimed the store could not accept large bills and requested a loan from the victim. The victim loaned the men smaller bills to cover their purchase.

The victim dropped one of the men back off at the Barnes and Noble Store and took the other to a nearby apartment complex, where the man said he was going to get the money to pay him back. The man never surfaced from the apartment complex and the victim called police.

Investigators have determined that similar cases have occurred since March of 2006. Two cases of this type have occurred in the same parking lot in the month of November 2008. Some of the previous cases have occurred in the Best Buy parking lot in the 200 block of Independence Blvd.

In each of the cases, one or both of these suspects approaches young men in their twenties in parking lots and asks for their help. The suspect(s) claim in each case to have some type of car trouble and request the assistance of their intended victim. The victims provide money to the suspects as a loan, not knowing they are being defrauded.

The first suspect is described as a black male, 35-45 years of age, 6'0 to 6'2" tall, with a gold-capped tooth in front, and an unshaven face. The second suspect is described as a black male, 35-45 years old, and 5'10" to 5'11" tall. Both men are described as friendly and well spoken.

Anyone with information about these crimes is encouraged to call the **Virginia Beach Crime Solvers Office at 1-888-LOCK-U-UP**. Callers remain anonymous and are eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest.

These cases remain under investigation by the Department's Third Precinct Property Crimes Unit.

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