



USF POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: May 23, 2014

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SUBJECT: UPDATE - Fraud Alert/Personal Safety Reminder

UPDATE:

On May 22, 2014, at 6:47 PM, a USF Police Officer conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of USF Palm Drive and Fletcher Avenue on a white SUV matching the description of the vehicle sought in connection with several fraud reports. The driver was identified as Guecoba Latrice Dow, 30, of Tampa, Florida. A routine records check revealed that Dow had an outstanding arrest warrant. As Dow was being taken into custody, it was learned that a passenger in the vehicle was a USF student who had just completed a transaction at Dow's request at an ATM machine. This transaction followed the same pattern as those previously reported. Dow was arrested and transported to the Hillsborough County Jail on the active warrant. On May 23, 2014, USF Police Detectives determined that the check deposited on May 22, 2014 was fraudulent and that Dow was involved in two prior incidents at USF involving fraudulent deposits. Dow has also been charged with one count of Grand Theft (felony), one count of Petit Theft (misdemeanor), two counts of Possession of a Counterfeit Payment Instrument (felony), and two counts of Scheme to Defraud (felony). At the time of this update, Guecoba Dow remains incarcerated in the Hillsborough County Jail.

Anyone having information about Guecoba Dow or similar occurrences is asked to contact the USF Police Department at (813)974-2628.

Previous News Release

The University of South Florida Police Department has received several reports regarding students allowing individuals to use their bank account and/or have access to their ATM card and PIN number. The suspects will approach a student and ask the student to use their account to deposit a check claiming that they don't have access to a bank account themselves and need to cash a check. They will then offer the student a ride to the ATM, and upon arrival deposit the stolen/fraudulent checks into the student's account and withdraw funds. Later these checks are determined to be stolen/fraudulent and the student suffers a financial loss.

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PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

It is unknown whether these two individuals are associated or working independently. The first suspect is a black male last seen driving a red Mazda SUV. The second suspect is a black female last seen driving a white SUV. Anyone having information about these individuals or similar occurrences is asked to contact the USF Police Department at (813)974-2628.

USFPD wants to remind our community members that they should never allow anyone to use their bank account as an intermediate means of obtaining funds. There is no legitimate reason for someone you don't know to approach you and ask for such assistance. Further, no one should EVER accept a ride from a stranger under these or any other circumstances. If approached by anyone asking to give you a ride or asking you to assist them with a financial transaction, refuse and leave the scene, then contact the USF Police Department by calling 9-1-1.

For further information please contact Lt. Charlotte Domingo at (813) 974-2859.