

NEW BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

871 Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02740



P R E S S R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, December 29, 2009

THREE NORTH END HOUSEBREAKERS ARRESTED BY ALERT OFFICERS AFTER TIPS FROM CITIZENS

In two separate and unrelated cases, three New Bedford men were arrested for breaking into homes in the north end of New Bedford yesterday thanks to tips received from involved citizens and some fast acting New Bedford police officers assigned to the North District along with one of our detectives. Kevin Pimental (21) of Holden Street and Chad Costa Aguiar (26) of Branscomb Street were arrested after breaking into a Dawson Street home while George Boucher (26) of Beetle Street was arrested after breaking into a Mt Pleasant Street home continuing the streak of recent arrests made in north end housebreaks.

At approximately 12:30 PM yesterday, Officer Brian Medeiros was flagged down by a citizen near Conduit Street who reported seeing two men, later identified as Pimental and Aguiar, entering the yards of various houses and acting suspiciously. The citizen also reported that one of the men was wearing a pink backpack – a detail that was consistent with information officers had recently received regarding two suspicious males in the same area who were possibly responsible for some other north end housebreaks. Armed with this timely information, Officer Medeiros was able to immediately respond. Upon making eye contact with Officer Medeiros, Pimental and Aguiar ducked into a backyard of a nearby house carrying the pink backpack and then reemerged a few houses down the street without the backpack as they walked away from the officer. While Officer Medeiros detained the men, assisting officers checked the area where Pimental and Aguiar had fled into upon originally seeing Officer Medeiros and recovered a pink backpack loaded with assorted jewelry, a laptop computer, a video game system along with some coins and cash.

While the officers were conducting their investigation, a resident came home and discovered that her home had been broken into. When officers spoke with the resident, she was able to identify the recovered items from the backpack as items that had been stolen from her home. The woman as well as other area residents later told officers on the scene that they had seen Pimental and Aguiar in the neighborhood recently carrying the same pink backpack. Pimental and Aguiar were arrested without incident and the property was returned to the homeowner.

At approximately 3:30 PM, a homeowner in the Mt Pleasant Street area came home to find his door window broken and upon entering, he could see that his home had been ransacked. Before the homeowner even had a chance to call the police, the housebreaker burst out of an adjacent room and ran past the homeowner. The homeowner tried to chase the suspect but then called 911. Almost immediately, two patrol units responded and were able to get a description of the suspect. Armed with this accurate and timely information, an all unit broadcast was put out over the radio and an alert

detective, Detective Candido Trinidad, spotted someone matching that description just a few streets away. The suspected housebreaker was detained and when officers brought the homeowner by to see the male Detective Trinidad had detained, later identified as George Boucher, the homeowner immediately identified him as the man who had broken into his house. Boucher was arrested after a brief struggle with the officers however he is believed to have disposed of the stolen items prior to being stopped by Detective Trinidad.

As is always the case, detectives will be reviewing recent housebreaks to see if they may be connected to these recently arrested suspects and the public is again urged to please call the police if they see any suspicious activity. **This case highlights that timely and accurate information from the public is a critical ingredient to effective policing. Information of an immediate nature to report a fire, save a live or report a crime in progress should be given by calling 911. Information of a non-immediate nature can be given either by calling our TIP LINE at 508.99.CRIME, logging into our website at www.newbedfordpd.com or sent by text message/email to tip@newbedfordpd.com.**

Best regards.



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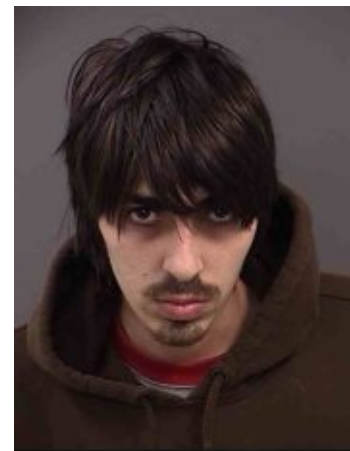
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Chad Aguiar



George Boucher



Kevin Pimental