



PRESS RELEASE

Case #14-230910

Deputies Capture Man Following Car Break-ins

August 15, 2014—Sheriff's Deputies arrested a man on allegations of breaking into several cars and stealing property. He was tracked down and arrested.

This morning at 1:25 a.m., a citizen called Sheriff's Deputies, to report a man that was seen entering their neighbor's vehicle in the 130 block of South 11th Avenue in the city of Cornelius. The man quickly walked away and several citizens followed him while calling deputies keeping them informed of their location. The man began running eastbound from the citizens.

Multiple Sheriff's Deputies including deputies serving the city of Cornelius, a Sheriff's K9 and Forest Grove Police responded to capture the man and locate possible additional victims. About two minutes after the 911 call, Sheriff's Deputies arrived and began coordinating the search. The man was contained to an area and after an hour of searching, the man was captured. The man was positively identified as the person followed from the vehicle.

Deputies located and arrested Antolio Mendoza-Cruz, 20, from Cornelius. During the search, deputies located backpacks, a laptop, and other valuable items discarded or hidden by Mr. Mendoza-Cruz. It was discovered there were five vehicles broken into, with the possibility of more yet to be found. The area of the vehicle break-ins was north of South Baseline Road between South 10th Avenue and South 14th Avenue.



Antolio Mendoza-Cruz was charged with five counts of Unauthorized Entry into a Motor Vehicle. He was lodged in the Washington County Jail held on \$25,000 bail. Additional charges could be added as the investigation continues and if more victims are located.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office commends the citizens for being alert and calling to report criminal activity or any suspicious behavior. Cornelius Police Chief Moss said, "If you see something, say something. This coordinated partnership with citizens is critical to help keep our community safe."

Many of the stolen items were left in plain sight and most of the vehicles were left unlocked. Deputies remind residents to always lock their vehicles when they are unattended, and to remove valuable items or store them out of sight.