



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Chris Dewey
Chief of Police

Press Release **UPD cases 15-3307 & 15-3311**

On 11/09/2015, at about 1:13 PM, Ukiah Police Officers were dispatched to the 700 block of South State Street, for a report of a carjacking which had just occurred. Arriving Officers contacted two victims, and determined that an adult female had been seated inside her vehicle, while the additional owner was inside a nearby store. During this time, a male subject who has been identified as 26 year old Eric Garcia entered the vehicle on the driver's side and demanded the victim exit the vehicle. The victim fearing for her safety fled the vehicle and the suspect left the area in the stolen vehicle. Officer's later located the stolen vehicle abandoned in the 1000 block of North State Street, however the suspect was not located at this time.

On 11/09/2015, at about 5:27 PM, it was reported to the Ukiah Police Department that a second vehicle had been stolen from the 1000 block of North State Street, near the location where the aforementioned vehicle was recovered.

On 11/09/2015, at about 9:35 PM, Ukiah Police Officers observed this second stolen vehicle traveling southbound in the 600 block of North State Street. Subsequently, Eric Garcia and another adult female identified as 24 year old Tia Higgins were taken into custody and evidence was located in this second vehicle connecting it to the first stolen vehicle.

Garcia was booked into the Mendocino County Jail on a violations of Carjacking and two counts of vehicle theft. Higgins was booked into jail on a violation of her probation and for vehicle theft.

Although not a factor in either of these two cases, citizens are reminded about the practice of warming up their cars as we get into the colder months. Warming up your vehicle often leaves the vehicle exposed to vehicle theft. Citizens are encouraged to contact law enforcement if they observe suspicious activity around or about vehicles.