

D'IBERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Chief Wayne H. Payne

PRESS RELEASE



Chief Wayne Payne announced the arrest of white male Donald Ray Welch, 30 years of age, of D'Iberville, MS. Welch is charged with Kidnapping, Sexual Assault and Impersonating a Police Officer. Welch surrendered to the police department pursuant to an arrest warrant issued by Harrison County Justice Court Judge Albert Fountain. After hearing the facts, Judge Fountain imposed a \$201,000.00 cash bond for Welch.

On Monday, May 18, 2009, D'Iberville Police Officers responded to Arbor View Apartments regarding a complaint of sexual assault. On arrival, Officers met with the victim who provided information the suspect approached her and identified himself as a Police Officer but failed to show a badge. The suspect told the victim that there was an injured cat under her vehicle. The suspect eventually convinced the victim to allow him to enter her vehicle and move it to prevent further injury of the injured cat. The victim complied and when the suspect entered the vehicle, he displayed a small hand gun and stated... "Do as I say, I don't want to hurt you". The suspect then drove the victim to another location where he sexually assaulted the victim.

Captain Keith Davis of the Criminal Investigations Division said the department is confident it has its' suspect, that he acted alone and no other arrests are anticipated in the case.

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Chief Payne requests if any resident of D'Iberville sees suspicious person(s), please notify the police immediately. In addition, all police personnel are required to possess proper identification; police photograph and a badge. Chief Payne said his officers will provide proper identification when acting under the authority of the police department.

The police department seeks the assistance of the community for any information about criminal activity in the D'Iberville community. Please contact the Police Department at 228-396-4252 or Crime Stoppers. Callers can remain anonymous.

Captain Keith Davis
Criminal Investigations Division/
Public Information Officer