



WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

April 3, 2018
West Lafayette, Indiana

On March 30, 2018 at approximately 5:00 p.m., West Lafayette officers were dispatched to the parking lot of Meijer, 2740 US 52 W in West Lafayette, in reference to a report of shots fired. Officers arrived and shortly after speaking to witnesses at the scene, the parties involved in the incident that led to the shots fired, were located on Rutherford Dr. After speaking with the subjects involved, officers were able to determine that two individuals had been in contact with each other via Facebook and had planned to meet at Meijer for the sale of a PlayStation 4 gaming system. According to the buyer, the seller had placed books inside a computer bag instead of the gaming system and then ran off with the money from the sale. The buyer chased him through the parking lot and fired shots from a small caliber handgun as the seller left the area in a vehicle. The buyer left the parking lot and the two vehicles eventually collided on Rutherford Dr. Officers recovered spent shell casings from the Meijer parking lot, as well as the firearm on Rutherford Dr. No injuries were reported and officers did not locate any damaged property because of the gunshots. Brendan Weaver, age 21 of Lafayette was taken into custody and preliminarily charged with criminal recklessness while armed with a deadly weapon, criminal recklessness with a vehicle, pointing a firearm, carrying a handgun without a license and driving while suspended with a prior. The fact that a person has been arrested or charged with a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

The West Lafayette Police Department would like to remind the public that meetings arranged through online classified ads/sales sites and social media can often lead to theft or crimes of violence. Be cautious of items offered for extremely low prices or for expensive items, which would cause the buyer to arrive at a meet location with a large amount of currency. The West Lafayette Police Department, at the direction of Chief Dombkowski, is designating the visitor/public parking area of the police department lot as a "Safe Exchange Zone" in an effort to provide the public with a safer alternative for a meeting location. Signage designating the lot as a "Safe Exchange Zone" will be posted in the coming weeks. Please direct any questions directly to Chief Dombkowski.

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