

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Detective and Officer Earn Commendations of Merit Arrest, Investigation Links Suspects to Burglaries in PA, NJ and DE**

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP** (June 17, 2016) – Detective Reginald Nealy Jr. and Officer Joseph McCreary received commendations of merit from the Lower Providence Township Board of Supervisors for work leading to the arrest of two serial burglary suspects. The suspects were connected to Dollar Tree and T-Mobile store burglaries in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware since February 2015 with Dollar Tree reporting a total loss of more than \$70,000 and T-Mobile stores reporting a loss of more than \$580,000.

Officer McCreary was on routine patrol in the area of Surrey Lane and the Audubon Court Apartment entrance at 12:40 a.m. on December 24, 2015 when he observed a vehicle similar to one identified as a suspect vehicle in a number of commercial burglaries both in Lower Providence and surrounding jurisdictions. He conducted a vehicle stop at Egypt and Pinetown Roads.

The driver said he was coming from a local bar but could provide few details and Officer McCreary also observed white dust on his clothing. When officers asked the driver to step from the vehicle a second suspect was found secreted in the back seat and was also covered in white dust.



**Off. McCreary accepts congratulations from Board Chairman Jason Sorgini and Police Chief Stanley Turtle.**

Assisting officers responded to the Dollar Tree and determined that a burglary had occurred. Entry had been made by cutting through a wall in the common hallway. During this time Officer McCreary received consent to search the vehicle from the driver. The search revealed tools that were warm to the touch. Based on the factors known to this point the suspects were taken into custody and the vehicle was secured. The suspects were charged with the burglary of Dollar Tree and were held on bail.

Detective Nealy Jr. responded to assist with processing the store and vehicle. It was determined that forced entry was made into the Dollar Tree and a safe was entered. This was the same modus operandi as other Dollar Tree and T-Mobile store burglaries. Det. Nealy executed a number of search warrants on the vehicle and electronic equipment recovered from both suspects. As a result, he was able to connect the suspects to burglaries in the three states and then hosted investigators from a number of jurisdictions to gather facts and compare evidence. Ultimately, Det. Nealy linked and charged the suspects with 13 burglaries from Pennsylvania. Jurisdictions in New Jersey and Delaware also filed charges based on his facts and evidence.

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