



NEWS RELEASE

TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN POLICE

SUBJECT: False Stolen Car report results in DWI arrest.

DATE/TIME: 11-19-09

LOCATION: Armstrong Blvd – Twinbrook Apartment Complex

OFFICERS INVOLVED: Bruce Friend, Sgt. Wayne Stewart, Sgt. Thomas Burke, Sgt. Brendan Bruther, Detective Lames Loizos and Special Officer Mathew Guido.

ACCUSED: **Howard J. Lee, Age 46 of Ocean Township**

NARRATIVE

On 11/19/09 at approximately 12:16 pm, police were initially called to the Twinbrook Apartment complex in reference to a hit and run motor vehicle crash that occurred in a parking lot of an apartment building located on Armstrong Blvd. Officer Bruce Friend arrived on the scene and found an unoccupied 2001 four door Infinity up on a curb with two flat tires and undercarriage damage. During his investigation, Friend was approached by a male subject who appeared to be intoxicated, later identified as Howard Lee, who informed Friend that he was a mechanic and was working on the Infinity for the owner shortly before it crashed. Lee further stated that he left the car running and unattended because he needed to go back to his apartment and retrieve a jack. Lee then returned after he heard a loud noise and found the Infinity had crashed onto the curb. Lee then advised Friend that he saw an unknown male subject run from the car and tried to give chase.

Additional officers arrived in the area along with a K-9 from Tinton Falls to search for the unknown male subject who was now a suspect in what was believed to be a stolen car. Shortly thereafter, information was received by two witnesses who both confirmed that Lee was in fact the only driver and crashed the car into the curb. Lee was subsequently taken into custody at the scene and transported to OTPD for further processing. Lee, who had a suspended driver's license, also had municipal court warrants for his arrest out of Linden and Scotch Plains. He was charged with Making a False Report to Police, Hindering his own Apprehension and DWI. He was later taken to Monmouth County Jail on \$2935.00 bail.

PREPARED BY: Detective Lieutenant Steven R. Peters

DATE: 11/23/2009