

Troopers Arrest Two Men for Fraudulent Credit Card Purchases

Yesterday the Delaware State Police arrested 19-year-old **Ernest Ashlet** and 30-year-old **Sebastien Mombes**, both of Orlando, Florida, as they attempted to purchase car parts in Laurel with illegitimate credit cards.

On August 23, 2023, at approximately 10:05 a.m., state troopers and officers from the Laurel Police Department responded to West Side Auto Parts at 4740 Sharptown Road for a report of someone at the store attempting to buy car parts using several different credit cards. When officers arrived, two suspects immediately drove away in a U-Haul van. Officers gave chase and the van came to a stop on Ellis Grove Road at Collins Lane in Laurel. Driver Ernest Ashlet and passenger Sebastien Mombes were then taken into custody without incident.

Inside the van troopers found a large amount of cell phones, tablets, unused gift cards, and auto parts, along with a credit card scanner and embosser machine. The investigation at West Side Auto Parts showed that the two had used information stolen from six credit cards to try to purchase over \$22,000 worth of car parts.

Ashlet and Mombes were taken to Troop 5 and charged with the following crimes:

- Possession of a Payment Card Scanning Device (Felony)
- Possession of Instruments Facilitating Identity Theft (Felony)
- Organized Retail Crime Over \$1,500 (Felony)
- Possession of Forgery Devices (Felony) – 2 counts
- Theft Over \$1,500 (Felony) – 5 counts

- Unlawful Use of a Payment Card Over \$1,500 (Felony) – 5 counts
- Conspiracy Second Degree (Felony)
- Unlawful Use of a Payment Card Under \$1,500
- Theft Under \$1,500
- Receiving Stolen Property Under \$1,500 – 2 counts

Ashlet and Mombes were arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 2, and both were committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on \$45,000 cash and \$43,000 secured bonds, respectively.