

Florida man arrested after flaunting stolen Mercedes online following 'rash' of car break-ins: deputies

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Nicholas Coffey, 23, bragged about his 'new' Mercedes-Benz on social media, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office said.

A Florida man is behind bars after allegedly **flaunting** a stolen Mercedes-Benz on social media after using it to commit a "**rash**" of break-ins, according to the Volusia County Sheriff's Office.

Nicholas Coffey, 23, was arrested Sunday morning after he was identified as one of two suspects involved in multiple car break-ins in the Deltona area over the weekend. The sheriff's office said Coffey and the second suspect, who were both wearing face coverings and gloves, were **caught in the act** on residential security cameras.

Video surveillance footage at a Deltona gas station also allegedly showed Coffey arrive at the business in a Mercedes-Benz reported stolen out of Ormond Beach at around 4:30 a.m. Saturday. He made a purchase inside the store with the face covering around his neck and blue latex gloves on his hands.

Images from the gas station footage were circulated and Coffey was identified as the person **in question** by a Volusia County detective because of his "distinct face and neck tattoos," the sheriff's office said. The detective was also working a separate case involving Coffey and had a **warrant** out for his arrest.

A search of Coffey's social media also revealed photos of him wearing the clothing seen in the gas station footage and residential security videos, and he also posted about having a "new" Mercedes-Benz, the VCSO said. In addition to the videos, license plate reader data showed the stolen Mercedes on five streets in Deltona where the car break-ins happened from about 3 a.m. to 5:45 a.m. Saturday.

Coffey was located in Daytona Beach at around 5 a.m. Sunday, where deputies and detectives arrested him on the **outstanding** warrant. He was then transported to Deltona for an interview, where he did not deny being the person seen in the videos, but also did not confess to committing any crimes, the sheriff's office noted.

Coffey was booked into jail on 11 counts of conspiracy to commit burglary of a conveyance, one count of conspiracy to commit attempted burglary of a conveyance, fraudulent use of a credit card and probation violation for being a convicted felon with a firearm.

The sheriff's office said investigation remains as the second suspect has not yet been identified.

Vocabulary

break-in (vb.) = to commit robbery

flaunt (vb.) = to show off

rash (n.) = a series of (usually negative) events

caught in the act (idiom) = being discovered doing something wrong

(something) in question = a person or thing that is being discussed

warrant (n.) = a document issued by the authorities allowing the police to arrest suspects, or search their property

outstanding (adj.) = 1. not yet paid, resolved, or dealt with, e.g. an outstanding warrant
2. extremely good, e.g. an outstanding player

Discussion

1. Do you know a similar situation where a criminal was caught because he was “being careless”?
2. What crimes have been in the news recently?
3. Have you ever been the victim of a robbery?
4. Crimes such as those described in the story are unfortunately more common these days. What are the possible reasons young people these days are so often involved in crimes like these?
5. Your friend confesses to you that he committed a crime and now he is bothered by it, although he won't confess his crimes to the police. He says you're the only one who knows about it because you're the only person he trusts. A few days later, you see on the news that someone else, a completely innocent person, has been arrested for his crime. What will you do?