



FLORISSANT POLICE DEPARTMENT

1700 North Highway 67, Florissant MO 63033

www.florissantmo.com/police

NEWSLETTER / PRESS RELEASE

Office of the Chief of Police, William Karabas

Contact: Sgt. Kevin Boschert - Office: (314) 830-6042, Cell: (314) 819-3163

kboschert@florissantmo.com

For Immediate Release: December 16, 2011

Warrants Issued on Two "Pigeon Drop" Suspects

Warrants were issued earlier today for "Felony Stealing" on two subjects relating to a "Pigeon Drop" incident that occurred in Florissant on Wednesday, December 14th. In that incident the victim, an 89 year-old Florissant resident who had just arrived outside the Grandview Schnucks Store, was approached by one of the suspects who said the victim could make some money very easily. The victim agreed to listen and allowed the suspect to enter his car.

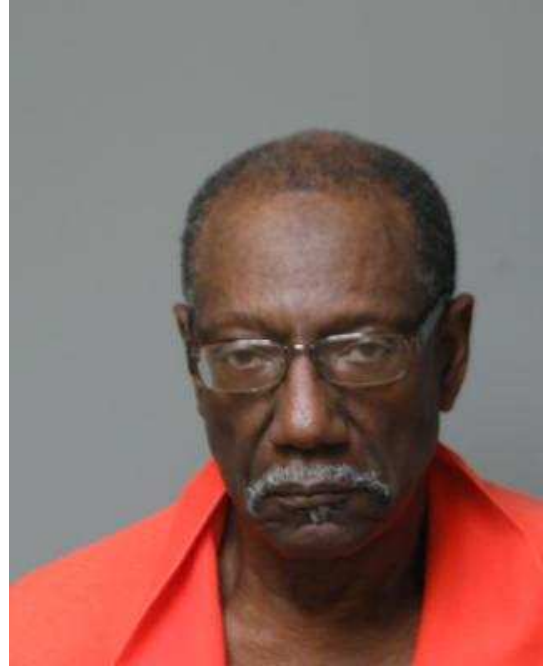
The victim was told to drive to the area of West Florissant and Dunn Road where they met up with the second suspect. The victim overheard the second suspect talking with the first suspect about someone he knew that needed to give some of their \$100,000 before returning to South Africa to look for family members that were being held hostage. The victim was duped into believing the suspects story so he was directed to drive them to his bank where the victim withdrew \$5,000. After a short time the suspects left and did not return. The victim then discovered his money had been switched out with torn newspaper. The victim notified the Florissant Police of the incident

Yesterday, Thursday, December 15th, an off-duty Florissant Officer, Joseph Monahan, noticed a suspicious situation near the Shop 'n Save at the Flower Valley Shopping Center located near North Highway 67 and New Halls Ferry. Officer Monahan had personal knowledge of the original incident as he was the officer who responded and completed the original report on the 14th. He believed the subjects fit the description of the people involved in the "Pigeon Drop" reported the previous day. As he approached he heard one of the subjects speaking to an elderly person about making some money and speaking with a foreign accent.

Acting on this information Officer Monahan called in for assistance. The vehicle the suspects were driving was stopped by Florissant Officers. Subsequent investigation resulted in the arrests and warrants being issued for "Felony Stealing" on the two following suspects:



Eugene O'Neal
Age: 52
4800 block of Calvin Ave
St. Louis, MO 63115



Lawrence C. Van
Age: 61
5100 block of Enright
St. Louis, MO 63108

Bond was set at \$50,000 for each suspect.

Phone (314) 831-7000

###
Emergency 9-1-1

Fax (314) 830-6045