

# **Hartford Police Department**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**August 30, 2011**

Over the last ten days the Hartford Police Department has made several arrests for theft of scrap metal from Hartford businesses. The theft and recycling of industrial scrap metal has unfortunately become a very prevalent problem, not just in Hartford but all over the country. For that reason Hartford officers have stepped up their patrol efforts in areas where our local businesses have been victimized in this way in the past.

On 08-21-11, at approximately 9:48pm, City of Hartford Police Officer Robin Oliver was on routine patrol in the area of one of those businesses, Helgesen Industries, in the 1700 hundred block of Innovation Way. Officer Oliver observed a male subject in the Helgesen parking lot near an open vehicle that Oliver could see had been loaded with scrap metal. After making contact with this subject Officer Oliver also discovered that a second individual was hiding inside the vehicle.

Investigations at the scene lead to the recovery of scrap stainless steel that had been taken from Helgesen Industries scrap recycling dumpster. Officers also located MapQuest directions to four other businesses in Dodge and Ozaukee Counties in the suspect's vehicle. A 39-year-old man and a 23-year-old woman, both Milwaukee residents, were arrested on charges of Theft for their involvement in this incident.

On 08-28-11, at approximately 10:45pm, Officer Erik Engebretsen was patrolling when he observed a vehicle matching the description of one reportedly used in previous scrap metal thefts driving westbound on HWY 60 towards the area where many of our local businesses had been targeted. Officer Engebretsen followed the vehicle at a distance as the vehicle entered the Helgesen parking lot and backed up to the scrap metal dumpster. As Hartford officers approached the vehicle several subjects fled on foot.

Hartford officers, with the assistance of Washington County Sheriffs Deputies, began searching the surrounding area eventually located and arrested five Milwaukee men ranging in age from 17 to 51-years-old who had fled from the Helgesen parking lot.

Investigation at the scene resulted in the recovery of a sizeable amount of scrap metal from the suspect's vehicle. The suspects were taken into custody for Theft, Obstructing an Officer, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Probation Violations, and multiple outstanding warrants.

Hartford Detectives are actively working with other area agencies to assist them with similar ongoing investigations in their jurisdictions that may have been committed by these individuals.

Charges in both incidents have been forwarded to the Washington County District Attorney's Office for review and prosecution.

It should be noted that all suspects enjoy the presumption of innocence. The state must prove all charges at trial.