

# Press Release

**LAKE CITY**  
**POLICE**  
**DEPARTMENT**



*Chief of Police Gerald Butler*

## **For Immediate Release**

February 2, 2023

Erica Johns, Public Information Officer  
Ph. (386) 984-2704

## **Multiple Guns Recovered from Convicted Felon**

On February 2, 2023, at 5:23 pm, Lake City Police Department responded to Murphy USA, located at 2659 W US Hwy 90, in regards to a vehicle burglary.

Officers arrived and contacted the victim who advised while inside the store, their cell phone was stolen from their vehicle. Officers reviewed security video footage from the store. It was confirmed someone reached into the victim's vehicle while it was unattended. Officers were also able to obtain the following suspect and vehicle description: a white male wearing a black "FOX" shirt, blue jeans, and a camo hat was observed exiting a silver Jeep utility vehicle, which was missing the front bumper.

At approximately 6:15 pm, while LCPD Officers were on routine patrol, they observed a silver Jeep utility vehicle matching the exact description, parked at S&S 42 located at 4741 W US Hwy 90. Officers observed a white male, matching the above description, exit the vehicle from the driver's seat and proceed to walk towards the store. Officers immediately made contact with the subject, who was later identified Thomas Smith, a convicted felon who is currently on Felony Probation. As officers attempted to detain Thomas, he attempted to flee the scene on foot. Thomas was placed in hand restraints and was secured in the rear of a LCPD patrol vehicle.

A search of Thomas's vehicle was conducted. During the search, the cell phone in a blue case taken from the victim at Murphy USA earlier in the day was located on the passenger seat. Officers also recovered the following: a camo Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun, a SN Romarn 7.62 AK-47, a Steven model 62 semi-auto .22 cal., a Mosin Nagant M91 bolt action 7.62 rifle, a milk crate full of ammunition, military gear, a green military ammunition can filled with several different caliber ammunition, a plastic Ziplock bag containing a variation of miscellaneous rifle parts, a prescription bottle containing gabapentin 600 mg pills, and 18 orange pills stamped with "N8" which were identified as Suboxone.



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Thomas was transported to the Columbia County Jail and is being charged with Burglary of a conveyance, petit theft third or subsequent conviction, possession of a firearm and/or ammo by a convicted felon, possession of controlled substance, possession of prescription medication w/o a prescription, resisting officer w/o violence, possession of drug paraphernalia, and violation of probation.



<b>SMITH, THOMAS EDWARD (W/ MALE / DOB: 10/1/1973 )</b>			
Status:	In Jail		
Booking No:	CCSO23JBN000310	MniNo:	CCSO11MNI009581
Booking Date:	02/02/2023 07:20 PM		
Age On Booking Date:	49		
Bond Amount:	NO BOND		
Address Given:	17632 65TH ROAD MCALPIN, FL 32062		

CHARGES					
STATUTE	COURT CASE NUMBER	CHARGE	DEGREE LEVEL		BOND
[+] 812.014.3c	P/C (LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT)	LARCENY	T	F	\$5000.00
[+] 810.02.4b	P/C (LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT)	BURGLARY	T	F	\$10000.00
[+] 790.23.1a	P/C (LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT)	POSSESSION OF WEAPON	S	F	\$25000.00
[+] 893.13.6a	P/C (LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT)	DRUGS-POSSESS	T	F	\$10000.00
[+] 499.03.1	P/C (LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT)	DRUGS-HEALTH OR SAFETY	S	M	\$2000.00
[+] 843.02	P/C (LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT)	RESIST OFFICER	F	M	\$1000.00
[+] 893.147.1	P/C (LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT)	DRUG EQUIP-POSSESS	F	M	\$1000.00
[+] 948.06	13000189CFAXMX (LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT)	PROBATION VIOLATION	N	N	NO BOND

Report information anonymously by calling the LCPD TIPS line at 386-719-2068 or Crime Stoppers of Columbia County at 386-754-7099.



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