



A National Association

Issue 40 August 2017

Table of Contents

CLEAR at NRF	1
CLEAR Website Updates	2
Slippery Shoplifting	3
One Man's Trash...	4
Family Theft	5
GA Shoplifting Ring	6
Social Media	8
Save The Date-c 2017 Conference	8
2017 Sponsors	9

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

The 2017 CLEAR Conference will be held October 16-19 at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, TX.

The hotel is near the Riverwalk and next to the Alamo.

Keep checking our website for updated information. We are updating regularly!! <http://www.clearusa.org/>



Newsletter

CLEAR at NRF

Again this year, CLEAR had a presence at the annual National Retail Federation conference. This year the conference was held in Washington DC. We had a booth at the Law Enforcement Fusion Center along with many law enforcement agencies and some ORC groups.



Thanks to all CLEAR members that attended the conference and manned our booth!!!

SPECTACULAR Raffle Giveaway For The Conference This Year!!!!!!

Every year at our annual conference, we have tons of great prizes that we raffle off. This year, we are taking it to the next level. We will have a Henry rifle, provided by one of our awesome sponsors— the American Public University System with CLEAR engraving as our Grand Prize!!!!!!



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• 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) • www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com

STANLEY Security

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BIG NEWS - we have a BRAND NEW WEBSITE!!!!!!

Same web address - <http://www.clearusa.org/> The best thing is - you can now register for the conference online and pay all at the same time!!!!!! Last year we could only pay online with PayPal, this year we can use PayPal [and also Square - for MC/VISA AmEx Discover!!!](#)

Please note - when the old website was merged with the new website, many of the passwords did not transfer over. You MAY have to request a password change.

Attached is a copy of the agenda and flyer for this year's conference. As with any conference, there are still some things that still need to be finalized. But other than a few changes, the agenda for this year's conference can be found here:

<http://www.clearusa.org/index.php/conference1/conference>

There are also some additional details on page 9

Every year, keep getting a little better, and this year looks to continue that tradition. We have some great topics, and as always, the best part of the conference is the networking with our peers.

We hope to see you all there!!!!

CLEAR Board of Directors



CLEAR EIGHTH ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE - REGISTRATION

LOGIN FORM

Hi Dave Collins,

LOG OUT

Man Needs Bigger Pants

ARRESTED



WILLIAM JASON HALL

LAKELAND (FOX 13) By: FOX 13 News staff
POSTED: JUN 05 2017 03:14PM EDT

A Polk County man must have been hoping for a slick getaway, but an observant detective gummed up his plans.

According to the sheriff's office, Detective Phil Ryan was sitting in his patrol car outside the 7-Eleven store on Duff Road in north Lakeland last Thursday. He watched as a man with baggy jeans walked into the store and proceeded to put **15 quart-sized bottles of Pennzoil down his pants** – apparently unaware that Ryan could see him.

But that wasn't all. Detective Ryan says he continued watching as the man dropped **30 movies** from a shelf onto the floor, bent down, stacked the movies on top of one another, and slid them down into his pants, too.

The suspect then walked out of the store, past Detective Ryan, and tried to get into his own vehicle – at least until the detective stopped him.

Surveillance video shared by the sheriff's office showed the man waddling out of the store, then back in after being intercepted by the detective. He then unloads his haul – one bottle at a time – as Ryan looks on.

The suspect, identified by deputies as William Jason Hall, was arrested. Since it's the 38-year-old's third petit theft arrest, he was charged with a felony.





A National Association

[CLEAR Mission:](#)

Build and support partnership across all investigative channels, accomplished through open communication and networking, training together toward the further development of the investigator and lastly, by supporting legislation which strengthens laws related to property crimes.

Be a part of the

Intel Newsletter!

Submit intelligence information and upcoming conferences /training opportunities to

[Dave Collins](#)

Let's Talk Trash

By: **Carlos Garcia**, Director of Loss Prevention, Goodwill Industries of South Texas

"One mans trash, another mans treasure" is a popular idiom and an interesting question. The thrift store business model is a multi-billion dollar industry; it can also be multi-billion dollar loss prevention nightmare. Thrift shops, like Goodwill, rely on donated goods from the public to operate. Donors go out of their way - cleaning out closets, boxing items and transporting their goods to a charity. For their good deed, donors receive a tax receipt to substantiate their donation, and more importantly the feeling of being able to positively impact their community.

Sometimes though, donors drop off their donations after-business-hours with hope that the charity will collect the donation the next day. Regrettably, it doesn't always work out that way and in fact, donating items



after-business hours provides an enticing opportunity for thieves to steal donations. This is a huge problem for the thrift industry and especially for Goodwill's across America. Where do these items go? External surveys show that the items stolen end up at yard and/or garage sales, Swap Meets, out of the country, or even online social media sites, that sell to unbeknownst buyers. The problem is further complicated by Organized Retail Crime (ORC) within the thrift industry. ORC groups are drawn to thrift business because of the lack of traceable inventory. Further, in some states including the State of Texas protects non-profit organizations from criminal activity by enhancing the charges to the next highest level.



Family Hits The Same Cell Phone Store THREE Times

Fox 4 FORT MYERS, Fla. – By Lisa Greenberg

The owner of a cell phone and tablet repair shop in Fort Myers said thieves used a distraction technique to steal from his store. The incident was caught on the shop's surveillance cameras. Celltemp has been open on Cleveland Avenue for four months. The owner, Erik Rocha, said this is his first encounter with thieves.

Rocha said the family visited the store five times in two days. He didn't usually check surveillance video, but after an employee thought something was suspicious, he decided to take a look. The store's surveillance video shows a family walk into the shop on May 30th. A young boy said he wanted an iPhone. He follows an employee to the repair room.

The video then shows the boy grab a phone off the wall and put it in his pocket. He and his family then leave with the phone.

Rocha said **an hour later**, they came back. Surveillance video shows a woman try to grab an iPhone off of a desk, but it got stuck under the computer nearby. She joins another woman at the display counter and starts sliding the back door of it open.

"She's asking him to write information down for her, check some serials on the computer, everything they can to **distract** the people," Rocha said.

The other woman is seen reaching her hand in to the display case, grabbing what Rocha believes she thought was an iPhone. Rocha said it was fake. The family left. Rocha checked the surveillance video and realized what happened.

The next day, the family showed up again. The surveillance video shows Rocha walk out of the repair room and lock the front door. He says he told the family he was calling the police.

"At this point, she started pushing me and tried to scratch me," Rocha said.

Rocha said he followed the family to the motel across the street where they were staying. Police came to investigate.





Athens GA police continue to dismantle major shoplifting ring that targeted area retailers

Athens Banner Herald Posted June 8, 2017 01:33 pm
By [Joe Johnson](#)

Athens-Clarke County police this week announced they continued to dismantle a shoplifting ring that is believed responsible for stealing thousands of dollars of merchandise from local retailers for re-sale at flea markets and elsewhere on the black market. On Wednesday, police disclosed they had arrested two more suspected ring members at Georgia Square Mall on May 23, three months after they caught the first suspects stealing dozens of boxes of laundry detergent from Kroger in north Athens.

According to police, at least one suspect confessed to thefts from that Kroger on U.S. Highway 29 North, as well as from other stores in Athens and elsewhere, including Oconee, Hall and Gwinnett counties.

A “much larger” theft ring to which the suspect allegedly belonged specialized in selling stolen detergent and other laundry products, but was also known to target vacuum cleaners and other merchandise.

That suspect, 21-year-old Herring Street resident Quintavious Lamor Johnson, was taken into custody on Feb. 3 on felony warrants charging him with theft by shoplifting at four different stores in Athens. Police said they believed Johnson was one of the people a seller at a local flea market, which they did not identify, recruited to steal items for resale at the market.

A report released by police at the time noted the theft of dozens of boxes of laundry detergent and body wash valued at nearly \$700 from Kroger. The report documented the viewing by police of surveillance video that purports to show Johnson and a female accomplice on Jan. 30 loading up two shopping carts with merchandise, which they pushed out the exit without paying.

Despite Johnson’s arrest, felony shoplifting cases continued to plague westside Athens retailers over the next few months.

On May 21, police said day shift officers took a shoplifting report from Walmart in which suspects got away with merchandise valued at \$2,000. Two days later, nightshift officers took another report documenting an attempt to steal items from Walmart valued at another \$1,000, but the suspects were thwarted by employees, police said.

Continued Next Page





A National Association



“We were unable to identify them, but we did get pictures of the suspects from the surveillance cameras,” Athens-Clarke County police spokesman Epifanio Rodriguez said. “Later that same day we responded to the mall for a shoplifting in progress at Bath and Body Works.”

There, an employee overheard the suspects talk about going to Victoria’s Secret , where police responded and made contact with the suspects.

“Officer Shawn Denmark recognized them from the pictures from Walmart and asked them to stop to talk,” Rodriguez said. “After several commands to stop, they took off running. Officer Denmark gave chase into the parking lot where other units were waiting” and arrested the suspects.

The suspects were identified as Terry Obrien Watkins, 30, of Cone Drive, and Kreosha Shayon Jones, 20, of Woodridge Circle.

When running from police, Jones dropped a bag that contained merchandise valued at nearly \$450 from Bath and Body Works. Denmark had to tackle the woman to make the arrest, police said.

Jones and Watkins were each charged with two felony counts of theft by shoplifting, one count of misdemeanor theft by shoplifting and obstruction of a law enforcement officer. Watkins was additionally charged with multiple probation violations, police said.

“Officer Denmark along with our other officers put a lot of man hours into these cases, not just investigating these shopliftings, but going the extra mile in ensuring that the suspects responsible for these shopliftings were apprehended,” Rodriguez said. “This is the dedication and hard work we have come to expect from our men and women who serve the citizens of Athens-Clarke County.”



Shoplifting and Social Media

You can see an excerpt from a Reddit webpage below. Sometimes we wonder where and how all these bad guys communicate—well, here's one way.

If anyone has any others, you can email us and maybe we can compile them for the next newsletter

dcollins@clearusa.org

Here's the web address for this one:

<https://www.reddit.com/r/Shoplifting/new/>



The screenshot shows a Reddit post in the r/Shoplifting subreddit. The post title is "Re: To the LP who said in a comment 'eventually your luck runs out' you were so right" by user Physxds, submitted 4 days ago with 251 upvotes. The post content describes a shoplifting experience where the user was caught and given a "life hack" of looking poor to gain sympathy. Below the post, two comments are visible. The first comment by TryNotToGetCaught (80 points) suggests "Life hack: look poor as shit to gain pity". The second comment by MakaveliRise (222 points) shares a personal story about a homeless man who bought food for the user's family during a road trip.

 **reddit** SHOPLIFTING **comments** other discussions (1)

↑ **Re: To the LP who said in a comment "eventually your luck runs out" you were so right** (self:Shoplifting)
251 submitted 4 days ago by Physxds

I was finally caught today. I thought everything was going smoothly until i hit the door then boom, out of nowhere the manager grabs my arm and just looked at me. She brought me to the store office where an older looking guy greeted me. I guess he was LP because of the way he was dressed. I thought for sure they were going to call the cops on me, but what i didnt realize was how poor i looked.(I forgot to take a shower before i left, and i wore some pretty old sweatpants and a t shirt.) So in the end they wound up buying the stuff i stole and giving it to me along with 20 extra dollars(so yay?) But now every walmart in existance knows approximately who i am and what i look like.

55 comments share report

all 55 comments
sorted by: **best (suggested)** ▼

↑ [-] **TryNotToGetCaught** 80 points 3 days ago
Life hack: look poor as shit to gain pity
permalink embed report
load more comments (4 replies)

↑ [-] **MakaveliRise** 222 points 4 days ago
Lmao that would be demoralizing. Reminds me of a story where at jack in the box during a road trip my parents only bought food for themselves since me and my siblings weren't hungry (we were all around like 5 or 6) and this homeless guy bought us food because he thought our parents weren't feeding us. That's like #2 most awkward/demoralizing moment to happen to our family. Number one would probably when I went to shake this guy in a wheel chair's hand before realizing his arm was missing
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load more comments (5 replies)

SAVE THE DATE
CLEAR 2017
National Conference
October 16-19, 2017

Menger Hotel
San Antonio, Texas
204 Alamo Plaza San Antonio TX 78205
210-223-4361

Downtown location
Near Riverwalk
Right next to Alamo

Hotel Rate: \$120 plus taxes
Ask for the Coalition of Law Enforcement
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