



# NEWS RELEASE

*Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police*

October 28, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUBJECT: Suspicious Vehicle Investigation Leads to Criminal Charges**

On October 26 around 1:40 a.m., Cpl. Robert Vernon was on patrol and noticed a black Lexus being driven from the lot of Marin Used Car Sales on E. Cleveland Ave. Knowing the business was closed and aware of previous thefts from car lots, the officer caught up to and stopped the car on Kershaw St. The driver claimed to be an employee of the business, but could not produce identification. He verbally provided a name and date of birth.

Suspicious of the circumstances, the officer instructed the driver to turn off the car and get out of the vehicle. When the driver hesitated, the officer began to open the door. The driver then took off at a high rate of speed with the door still open. With Kershaw St. being a dead end, the driver turned into the parking lot of Kershaw Commons townhouses. He discovered there was no other exit from the lot, and quickly drove back onto Kershaw St. in a direct path toward the officer who was standing in the roadway. As the car approached him, the officer drew his handgun and pointed it at the driver. The driver stopped the car, put it in reverse, and then drove back into the townhouse lot. From the lot, the driver went through a grassy lawn area, between a concrete barrier and a fence, over another concrete barrier, and onto the private driveway of a home, which lead him onto Cleveland Ave., where he continued at a high speed.

Through a series of interviews and investigation, it was learned that the suspect was a former employee of the dealership. It was also established that the suspect knows the owner of the car, but did not have the owner's permission to drive the car at that time.

**The defendant:**

Eric S. Mattison	11/5/1984 (25 years)	306 Lees Bridge Rd, Nottingham, PA
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A warrant was obtained charging Mattison with Reckless Endangering 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle, Resisting Arrest, Criminal Impersonation, and other offenses. He was picked up by Pennsylvania State Police and is being held in PA pending extradition to Delaware.

*The Newark Police Department affirms that all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.*

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