



STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE

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For Immediate Release

Excise Police Arrest Man Breaking Into Parked Cars

LAPORTE, Ind. (Dec. 5) – Indiana State Excise Police officers arrested a man suspected of breaking into parked vehicles in downtown LaPorte early Sunday morning.

Around 12:02 a.m. Sunday, excise police officers arrested Justin Allen Finch, Jr., 21, of LaPorte, after they observed Finch and another man looking into several cars in parking lots at the LaPorte Herald-Argus and King Gyros. When the excise officers approached the men, who were crouching down behind an Oldsmobile Aurora, they fled on foot. During the foot chase, Finch dropped a purse.

Officers apprehended Finch, who was arrested for public intoxication and resisting law enforcement by fleeing. The LaPorte Police Department investigated several suspected vehicle break-ins and also charged Finch with receiving stolen property.

In one parking lot police located two vehicles with broken windows, both of which were missing stereos, a vehicle with an open trunk lid, a tool box on the ground between two vehicles and a purse. In another parking lot, they located a black hooded sweatshirt that the second suspect took off during the foot chase. In the pocket of the sweatshirt, police found a screwdriver and other burglary tools. In a third parking lot, they saw that the Oldsmobile Aurora had a broken window. They recovered two car stereos from in front of the Oldsmobile. They also learned that another vehicle had been broken into in the same area and that a laptop computer had been stolen from it.

The Indiana State Excise Police and LaPorte Police Department are continuing to investigate this incident and are still seeking the second suspect.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on enforcing Indiana's alcohol and tobacco statutes.

