

NEWS RELEASE



GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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August 3, 2023

On August 2, 2023, a male subject in a tan van drove up to an elderly woman on Jackson Street and began talking with her. The subject then gave her some jewelry and drove away, after which she realized her wedding ring and engagement ring were missing. The suspect is described as a male, white, 60 years old, wearing a light-color shirt and baseball hat. The investigation is ongoing.

During the past week, there have been reports of scammers hawking fake jewelry and using sleight of hand to steal the victim's authentic gold jewelry. These incidents have occurred in our area as well as across the nation. Police Commissioner Jackson states:

- Suspects tend to target elderly victims.
- Suspects approach victims to initiate conversation, sometimes asking for directions.
- Suspects provide costume jewelry to the victims as a gift or a form of gratitude.
- As the fake jewelry is placed on the victims, the suspects remove the victim's authentic gold jewelry without the victim realizing it.

Commissioner Jackson states that if these individuals approach anyone, take note of any physical characteristics and descriptions before reporting the encounter to 911 as soon as it is safe to do so. Victims of the scam who haven't reported the incident are also encouraged to contact the Garden City Police Department at 516-465-4108.

"Please do not try to confront these individuals on your own," Jackson said. "Be a good witness and report it to the local authorities."