



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**THREE JUVENILES CHARGED WITH 20 VEHICLE BREAK-INS**

An extensive investigation into recent vehicle break-ins has led to the arrest of three 15 year old male juveniles. Since August 2009 to present, there have been 69 vehicles break-ins within the Town of Bluffton. All vehicles were reported unlocked and there was no forced entry. The majority of items stolen were electronic items and U.S. currency. These incidents centered on the following communities; Pinecrest, The Farm, Hampton Hall, Bluffton Park, and Pine Ridge.

Investigators obtained an anonymous tip approximately two weeks ago that led them to a number of possible suspects in these cases. Evidence linked these juvenile suspects to 20 cases and a total of 41 felony charges of Breaking Into A Motor Vehicle were filed in Family Court. During the investigation, it was discovered that these juveniles would walk communities late at night looking for unlocked vehicles. When one was found, they would enter the vehicle and take any small valuables that could be sold. The stolen property was then sold to unknown individuals in the area. Some of the property has been recovered and investigators are in the process of notifying victims. The investigation is on going.

These incidents are crimes of opportunity. The Bluffton Police Department suggests to residents that they secure their vehicles at all times when left unattended and to remove anything of value from them. If anyone has information about these incidents please contact the Bluffton Police Department Tip Line at 843-706-4560 or Sgt. Gonzales at 843-706-4563.