



# St. Petersburg Police Department News Release



## For Immediate Release

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## Media Relations Office

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## St. Petersburg Police Taking Steps to Reduce Property Crime

So far this year in St. Petersburg, most categories of violent crime are down significantly. However, property crimes are up 10.4% for the first six months of 2009, when compared to the same period of time in 2008.

There are many factors for the increases in crime, such as the economic recession - including increased unemployment rates - that have touched our entire community.

Chief of Police Charles "Chuck" Harmon has stepped up the Department's efforts to educate the public about crime prevention. A top-ten list of property crime prevention tips will appear in this month's water bills, two new crime prevention officers have been added to the Neighborhood Crime Watch Program, police patrols in our neighborhoods and business districts have been increased through the use of grant funding, and there are additional detectives assigned to our Burglary and Economic Crimes Units.

Chief Harmon and the Department's senior staff have met weekly to discuss the Department's progress with a number of crime-related issues. These weekly meetings include strategies aimed at monitoring repeat offenders and reallocating our resources, as necessary, to arrest them and get them off the street. Many of these criminals are wanted on prior criminal charges and are actively involved in crime patterns.

Chief Harmon said, "I am serious about reducing property crimes in our city, but I need the community's help. Unfortunately, we live in a world where we must lock our doors and secure our property from the small percentage of the population who engage in criminal acts against us, and career criminals concern me the most."

One of these criminals is Lagarrian Donaldson, DOB: 09-01-88. His street name is "Sweetball." He has four active warrants for his arrest for Fleeing and Eluding, Burglary, Failure to Appear, and Battery. Investigators also developed probable cause to arrest him for battering his 17-year-old girlfriend, who is six months pregnant.

Donaldson became a suspect in a commercial burglary in March of this year, and he has been suspected in numerous burglary patterns in the north and west sections of the city, as well as crimes of violence and illegal drug sales.

Yesterday, Burglary detectives who were investigating a string of residential burglaries last weekend, including a few in the Harshaw neighborhood, developed probable cause to arrest him in one of those cases. They have also connected him to a house where numerous stolen flat screen televisions, electronics, ammunition and illegal drugs were discovered.



Lagarrian Donaldson



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Chief Harmon says that Donaldson has been arrested numerous times for charges including Aggravated Assault, Auto Theft and Burglary. He is asking for the public's help in locating Lagarrian Donaldson "so this career criminal can once again be taken off our streets."

If anyone has knowledge about Lagarrian Donaldson or other crime information, we encourage them to call our Tip Line at 727-892-5000 or Text a Tip at 727-420-8911.

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