



# St. Petersburg Police Department News Release



**Media Relations Office**  
**Bill Proffitt**  
**Mike Puetz**

**Voice 727-893-7550**  
**Fax 727-893-7773**  
**Media Line 727-893-7878**

## **For Immediate Release**

January 8, 2011

## **Update re. Auto Theft/Child Abduction. Child Found Unharm**

This is a recap regarding the auto theft/child abduction which took place in the 100 block of 17 Street North this afternoon.

At about 4:20 p.m., January 7th Tamarcus Daise, DOB 08/07/81 drove his rented 2010 Dodge Charger bearing North Carolina tag YXN-2064 to the apartment complex on the northeast corner of the intersection reportedly to pick up an acquaintance. His car was parked facing north on the east side of 17 Street and was left with the keys in the ignition and the engine running.

At the time Daise left his 1 year old son, Tamarcus Daise Jr. DOB 09/09/09, strapped in a car seat in the back seat of the car while he went to the friend's apartment to knock on the front door. When he turned his attention back towards the car, he could see it leaving in a north bound direction on 17 Street, but could not see who was driving.

Daise called police to the scene and the investigation of the abduction of the child was initiated. Officers and detectives numbering as high as 45 from various specialized units within the department were utilized in the search and support was provided by surrounding agencies to include Tampa, Hillsborough County and FDLE.

As officers began to question Daise about the incident, he became increasingly agitated and uncooperative. He refused to accompany officers to police headquarters and instead decided to strike out on his own and attempt to locate the child.

Daise left the area, but returned in the company of his step-brother, Tyreece Lasalle Rutledge, DOB 3/19/83, who was driving a 1999 red Ford Taurus.

At about 5:30 p.m., Daise and Rutledge came upon Detective Sergeant Al White and another detective who were on foot in the 1700 block of 2nd Avenue North talking to neighbors in an effort to locate witnesses to the abduction.

Daise stopped and began berating the detectives for not finding his son. As Sergeant White approached the car to explain what they were doing, Rutledge, who was still in the driver's seat, produced a handgun which he pointed at Sergeant White telling him to get away from his car. Rutledge and Daise then drove off at a high rate of speed and initial efforts to relocate the Taurus were unsuccessful.

At about 7:55 p.m. detectives located the Taurus in the area of 5 Avenue North and 49 Street where it was stopped and Rutledge was arrested on charges of Aggravated Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer.

Daise was not in the car at the time, but had been dropped off by Rutledge prior to that near the scene of the original abduction at 1 Avenue North and 17 Street.



## **St. Petersburg Police Department News Release**



**Media Relations Office  
Bill Proffitt  
Mike Puetz**

**Voice 727-893-7550  
Fax 727-893-7773  
Media Line 727-893-7878**

Detectives made contact with him there and took him into custody, initially on charges of Obstructing an Officer as it was determined that he had provided false information that had impeded efforts to locate his son. That charge was subsequently amended to Child Neglect when he later acknowledged to detectives that he left his son in the car while he went to conduct a drug transaction at the apartment complex.

At about 10:22 hours, Friday, January 7th, a citizen contacted police and advised that she seen news reports and had located the stolen Dodge Charger in the alley north of the 2100 block of Dartmouth Avenue North.

Detectives arrived on the scene and found the baby still secured his car seat in the back seat of the car. At the time the baby was asleep and the doors were found to be locked. Detectives had to force entry by breaking out the driver's window to gain access to the interior.

Paramedics were called to the scene, but the baby was found to be in good condition and showed no signs of injury or trauma. The baby was transported back to police headquarters to be reunited with his mother, Dala Daniels, 05/22/91 and the both were escorted home.

The Dodge Charger was towed back to the station for forensic processing. At this time a suspect has not been identified in the auto theft/abduction and detectives are still seeking information.

Anyone who may have knowledge as to the suspect(s) identity in this case is asked to call the St. Petersburg Police Department at 727 893 7780 or the Tip Line at 727 892 5000 or Text a Tip at 727 420 8911.

####