



NEW BERN POLICE DEPARTMENT
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City of New Bern

FOUNDED 1710

New Bern, North Carolina

Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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NBPD LOOKING FOR SHOPLIFTERS AT BELK

New Bern police are looking for two suspects who stole clothing from Belk in the New Bern Mall and tried to run over a loss prevention security officer at the store Thursday afternoon.

Police officers, who were at the NBPD mall substation, responded to Belk around 5:50 p.m. The loss prevention officer, **Jeremy Byars, 06/29/1987**, said he saw a suspicious male and female inside the store and had surveillance video of them stealing clothing items. **Byars** followed the suspects as they left, made contact with them outside the store doors and asked them to return inside.

The female continued to walk away, while the man turned and headed back to the doors with **Byars**. The male suspect then pushed **Byars** away, ran toward a nearby wooded area and circled back into the parking lot. At the same time, the female drove a newer model, grey or silver Volvo to where **Byars** was chasing the man. The male suspect jumped into the back seat; **Byars** was able to open the front passenger door and ordered them to stop.

The female placed the car in reverse and accelerated, trapping **Byars** with the car door. She continued to drive, pulling **Byars** underneath the Volvo, until she struck a parked car nearby and stopped. **Byars** was able to scramble away from the vehicle, and the two suspects sped away. **Byars** suffered scrapes, bruises and swelling in his hand and knee.

The male suspect was described as 5'5" to 5'6", 145-160 lbs, and last seen wearing a white knit cap, blue jeans and brown colored sneakers. The female was between 5'7" and 5'8", 115-130 lbs, with straight brown hair past her shoulders, wearing a black coat, jeans and black suede boots with tassels. Both suspects were white and appeared to be in their late teens or early twenties.

This is an ongoing investigation as police work to identify the two suspects. The four-door Volvo should have damage to the left rear panel and a broken left tail light. The front passenger door should show signs of being folded or extended beyond its normal range of motion.

New Bern police ask anyone who recognizes the two suspects in the surveillance footage to please contact 252-633-2020.

The New Bern Police Department is committed to Community Policing. Citizens are encouraged to become a "**Partner in Policing**," by reporting suspected illegal activity to the New Bern Police Department's **TIPS** line at **(252) 636-5034** or the Craven County Crime Stoppers line at 633-5141.

For additional information, please contact Beth Stevenson, Public Information Officer at the New Bern Police Department at (252) 672-4211.

Frank Palombo, Chief of Police

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