



For Immediate Release
HINGHAM POLICE
DEPARTMENT

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Citizens Call Leads to Arrest of Repeat Offender in Stolen Car

Hingham, MA – A call from a citizen about a driver who was slumped over the steering wheel led to the arrest of a Jamaica Plain man for alleged third offense drunk driving inside a stolen car.

On February 7, 2017 at 4:18pm Officers responded to the Panera Bread parking lot inside the Derby Street Shoppes for a report a driver who was slumped over the steering wheel with the engine running. Officers attempted to wake the driver by banging several times on the window. Eventually, the driver lifted his head and opened his eyes. He lowered the window and Officers detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage inside. His eyes were bloodshot and glassy. The driver admitted he has not held a valid license for years and did not know who owned the car. He was eventually able to push a button to shut the engine off. Between the driver's seat and center console was an open bottle of vodka.

He refused to step out of the car. Officers had to physically remove him from the car and he continued to resist the Officers outside the car. He was eventually handcuffed. Once inside the cruiser, he attempted to kick out the side windows. The car's front end, driver's side and interior glove box lock had fresh damage. The driver admitted the car had been stolen from Boston earlier in the day. Boston Police confirmed the car had been involved in a hit and run crash. The car's owner said he left the car at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, gave the ignition keyless ignition fob to the valet, but left it running. The owner was still in the process of reporting it stolen to the Boston Police.

Arrested was Eric M. Stuart, age 49, 170 Morton Street, Jamaica Plain, MA. He was charged with: 1) Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (3rd Subsequent Offense) 2) Receiving a Stolen Vehicle 3) Resisting Arrest 4) Suspended License (Subsequent Offense) 5) Open Container of Alcohol in Vehicle. His previous convictions for Operating Under the Influence were in 1997 in Peabody and 1994 in Barnstable. His license had been suspended since August 2016 for five years due to a prior breath test refusal.

At the time of his arrest he was wearing a GPS ankle bracelet as a part of his release after for an open drunk driving charge from August 2016 in Bourne. He was held overnight without bail at the Hingham Police Station and arraigned February 8. Hingham District Court Judge Neil Hourihan set bail at \$50,000 cash. He is due to return to court on March 24, 2017.

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