



**WESTERN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE**

**Western Springs Police Arrest Two Men
for Possession of Firearms on School Grounds**

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WESTERN SPRINGS, IL, October 4, 2021 – On Saturday, October 2, 2021, at 4:09 pm, the Western Springs Police were dispatched to Lyons Township High School South Campus Northwest parking lot after a report that two males may have been armed with handguns. An anonymous caller contacted the Lyons Township Area Communications Center (LTACC) providing a description of two black males, their clothing, and information about the vehicle they were driving. The caller stated the two men were behaving suspiciously and may have had guns. Two officers quickly identified the men who were attempting to enter a black Chrysler 200 M. The two men were detained while a third officer observed two handguns in plain view inside the Chrysler. Neither subject was armed with handguns on their person at the time of being detained. This event occurred shortly after the conclusion of the Lyons Township High School football game.

A search of the vehicle was completed, and officers recovered one Glock 9mm handgun with an extended 30 round magazine, and a 9mm Glock handgun with an extended 29 round magazine. Additional resources were contacted to maintain the perimeter of the scene while officers searched the area for any additional contraband. After an extensive search, no other items of interest were recovered. Major Case Assistance Team was also contacted to aid in the ongoing investigation. It was confirmed that both subjects were not students of Lyons Township High School.

Demitrus R. Ross 19, (15530 Lexington Avenue, Harvey, IL), and Donny J. Starkes, 19, (12720 Lincoln Street, Blue Island, IL), were each charged with one count of Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon / Possession of Firearm on School Grounds - Class 3 Felonies. Ross and Starkes were taken to the Cook County Department of Corrections on Sunday, October 3, where Judge David Navarro set bond for each at \$10,000 cash bond or 10% with electronic monitoring.

Visible police presence will be increased over the next week at Lyons Township High School. Members of the public are reminded that a complaint contains only charges and is not proof of the defendant's guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government's burden to prove his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

For further information and updates, please follow the Western Springs Police Department Facebook and Twitter pages:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Western-Springs-Police-Department-197146446978283/>

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Public Information Officer: Deputy Chief Daniel Albrecht, dalbrecht@wsprings.com