

Man Arrested for Impersonating an Officer, Possession of a Firearm by Convicted Felon, and Burglary
September 9, 2013

On September 5, 2013, at approximately 5:30 PM, Sheriff's Deputies responded to the area of Atlanta Highway at Frederick Street, in Gainesville, regarding an armed and suspicious subject in a cab purporting to be a law enforcement officer.

Upon arrival, Deputies learned that a cab driver had picked up a Latino male subject in Willow Ridge subdivision and that the subject had produced a badge and claimed to be a police officer. The subject then got into the cab with several items, including a handgun, ammunition, and a laptop computer, and instructed the driver to take him wherever he was told and not to ask any questions. The driver, sensing that something was obviously wrong, created a story about having to return to the taxi company's office and dialed 911 from that location. The male subject then exited the taxi and walked away, leaving all of the items inside the cab. The driver followed, keeping him in sight until Deputies arrived and took him into custody.

During the course of the investigation, Deputies learned that the badge that the subject produced was a security officer's badge, and also that the Gainesville Police Department was investigating a residential burglary near the location where the male subject was picked up by the cab driver. Detectives from that department met with Sheriff's Investigators and subsequently identified the subject as the perpetrator of that burglary.

21 year-old Carlos Ildefonso Lopez, of Gainesville, was arrested without incident and booked into the Hall County Jail, charged with Impersonating an Officer, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, and Burglary 1st degree. He is currently being held without bond, with a committal hearing scheduled on 9/20/2013.

This case remains under investigation by the Hall County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigations Division and the Gainesville Police Department. Please contact GPD for information specific to the burglary aspect of this case.