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Wellesley police arrest 2 men in car break

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By Matt Rocheleau, Globe Correspondent

Two men arrested Friday night in Wellesley pleaded not guilty today to charges of breaking into a car, authorities said. The arrests followed a lengthy police investigation into a rash of thefts from unlocked vehicles.

The arrests were made after a search warrant was executed shortly after 10 p.m. at a Dover Road home where one of the suspects lives, said Wellesley Deputy Chief William G. Brooks III.

Joseph Ecker, 19, was arrested during the search at his house. Officials then located and arrested a second suspect, Evan Yuri Brown, 20, who is believed to not have an address, but has been living in his car in the Wellesley area.

In Ecker's residence, Brooks said, police found 14 cell phones – including iPhones and camera phones – a Bluetooth device, a guitar, iPod headphones, several cell phonechargers, and binoculars.

Brown was discovered sleeping in his car parked on Appleby Road. In the vehicle, police found two cellphones, a Bluetooth device, a Garmin GPS, cash, gift cards, digital scales, and marijuana, Brooks said.

He said some of the evidence found in Ecker's residence and in Brown's car has been matched with items listed in past theft reports, including the guitar.

There have been approximately [45 thefts from vehicles since June](#), with items such as GPS units, iPods, musical instruments and cash being taken. Most thefts occurred at night and were from unlocked vehicles parked in driveways.

"I'm not sure how many of these they were involved in, but we believe [the suspects] were very, very active and we believe they were responsible for a good number of the breaks," Brooks said.

Each of the men was charged with one count of the following: breaking and entering at night into a vehicle with the intent to commit a felony, conspiracy to commit a crime, larceny over \$250, and receiving stolen property over \$250, according to police. In addition, Brown was charged with possession to distribute marijuana.

Brooks said they may face additional counts as the investigation continues.

Brown and Ecker were held on \$2,000 cash bail after they each pleaded not guilty to the charges at their arraignment Monday in Dedham District Court, said David Traub, a spokesman for the Norfolk district attorney's office. The two are scheduled to return to court on Aug. 27, he said.

Wellesley police officers, detectives from the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and detectives from the Norfolk County Police Anti-Crime (NORPAC) Task Force served the search warrant issued by Dedham District Court on Friday night.

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The arrests follow a lengthy, ongoing investigation by the Wellesley Police Department.

The full press release on the arrests is available [here](#).

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