

ELSMERE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Monthly Report
November 2023

Significant Events:

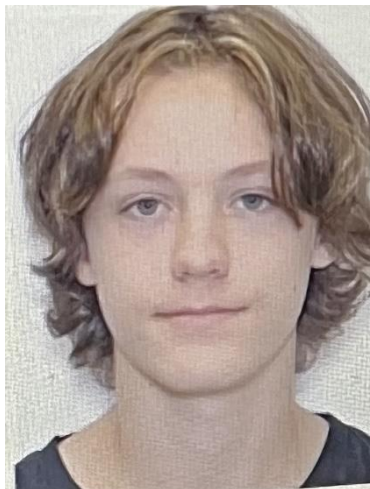
On the following dates/times Elsmere Bureau of Police officers handled the below incidents and seized the following drugs, money and/or weapons.

October 15, 2023:

Attempted Homicide Suspect From Maryland Apprehended

On October 15, 2023. M/Cpl. Kerrigan and Sgt. Smith were dispatched to 400 Baltimore Avenue (Bark Park) for a report of a suspicious person/vehicle. Upon arrival on scene, officers located a black SUV parked in the far back end of the lot. A check of the vehicle registration revealed the vehicle was reported stolen out of Maryland. Officers located Nathan R. Kratz (23) of Maryland hiding inside the vehicle.

Further investigation revealed that Nathan R. Kratz was wanted out of Baltimore, Maryland for Attempted Murder 1st Degree, Assault 1st Degree, Dangerous Weapon - Intent/Injure and Motor Vehicle Theft. Def. Kratz was arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court and was committed to Howard Young Correctional Institute until he can be extradited to the State of Maryland.



Nathan R. Kratz

October 19, 2023:

Abduction – Domestic Related

On Wednesday, October 19, 2023, at approximately 1:05 PM Elsmere Police responded to the area of New Road and Leech Avenue for the report of a kidnapping that had just taken place. Several witnesses described seeing a dark in color SUV with a trash bag over a portion of the rear passenger side window that was parked on the corner of New Road and Leech Avenue. A light skinned black male subject with curly hair was then seen dragging a black female in to the vehicle against her will. The vehicle then sped off Eastbound down New Road.

If you were in the area of New Road and Leech Avenue at this time or have any information regarding this incident please contact Detective Sowden via email at scot.sowden@cj.state.de.us by phone at 302-998-1173 ext. 208 or by text at 302-668-3014. Tips can be anonymous and can also be submitted to Delaware Crime Stoppers at 800-847-3333.

October 20, 2023:

UPDATE – Abduction Incident

On October 20, 2023, Elsmere Police did follow up on the report of the kidnapping that was reported on October 19, 2023 at the intersection of Leech Avenue and New Road. With the public's assistance, Elsmere Police were able to identify and make contact with the female Victim and determine that this incident was the result of a domestic dispute. The female is safe, and at this time, the investigation is ongoing.

If you were in the area of New Road and Leech Avenue at this, time or have any information regarding this incident, please contact Detective Sowden via email at scot.sowden@cj.state.de.us by phone at 302-998-1173 ext. 208 or by text at 302-668-3014. Tips can be anonymous and can be submitted to Delaware Crime Stoppers at 800-847-3333.

October 26, 2023:

DOJ, Elsmere PD Secure Delaware's First Ever Forced Labor Conviction

An Elsmere man will serve a lengthy prison sentence after pleading guilty to multiple felonies, including Delaware's first conviction under a Forced Labor statute originally passed in 2014.

On October 13, Martin Ortiz-Lozano, 34, was sentenced to fifteen years in prison after pleading guilty to two counts of Child Abuse in the First Degree and one count of Human Trafficking a Minor – Forced Labor.

In September 2021, Ortiz-Lozano had his minor child brought to Delaware from Mexico and forced them to work hard labor, seven days a week. The child was not sent to school and was assaulted on a daily basis, resulting in facial fractures, a collapsed nasal passage, displaced teeth, and other injuries. Ultimately, the victim underwent an extremely long and complex surgery to repair the damage that was caused by the repeated abuse.

“Every child needs love and support,” said Attorney General Kathy Jennings. “Instead, this victim was exploited by the person they needed the most. The violence and abuse that this child suffered were unthinkable; and while the child is now safe, there is still a long path to healing from this kind of trauma. I’m proud of the work that our team and our law enforcement partners did to bring the defendant to justice.”

This case was investigated by Det. Scott Sowden of the Elsmere Police Department, along with the Department of Justice. This conviction and sentence were secured by Deputy Attorney General Nikki Warner, Nurse Analyst Lauren Welling, Paralegal Jayna Quillen, Social Worker Bettina Jones, Investigator Guillermo Santiago, and Legal Assistant Luz Zermeno, with support from Investigation Coordinator of the Office of the Child Advocate Michael Cooksey.

October 29, 2023:

Juveniles Arrested For Breaking In To Vehicle

On Saturday, October 29, 2023, the Elsmere Police Department responded to multiple reports of attempted motor vehicle thefts during the early morning hours. The calls for service were throughout the Town of Elsmere, with the main targets being either Kia on

Hyundai vehicle products. One of the vehicles that was targeted was successfully stolen. At the time, the suspects were reported as five individual's all-wearing black clothing. This trend continued in to the evening hours of October 29, 2023.

Just after midnight on October 30, 2023, Officers Rosa and Franzone responded to the area of Manchester Apartments for the report of subjects attempting to break in to vehicles. Responding Officers were able to locate the four juveniles from the City of Wilmington walking in the Vilone Village area. The suspects were taken in to custody without incident and were charged with Burglary 3rd Degree, Conspiracy, and Loitering. Two of the juveniles were released to the custody of their guardians while the other two were turned over to the New Castle County Detention Center after failing post bail.

October 31, 2023:

Future Elsmere Police Officer "Jordon" brings in candy to Ptlm. Maddams on Halloween!

