



Paul B. MacDonald  
Chief of Police

## Town of Barnstable Police Department

P.O. Box B  
Hyannis, MA 02601



Main: (508) 775-0387  
Admin: (508) 775-0920  
Records: (508) 775-5466  
Fax: (508) 790-6317  
[www.barnstablepolice.com](http://www.barnstablepolice.com)

### Barnstable Police Department Press Release

June 17th, 2012

#### Busy Weekend for BPD

#### Larceny suspect hides in a storm drain in an attempt to elude police

A busy weekend for the Barnstable Police Patrol Division and Barnstable Street Crime Unit (SCU) included the arrest of a West Yarmouth man that fled into a “storm drain” attempting to make his escape. Life imitated art as Justin M Peckham, age 20, of West Yarmouth mimicked “John Rambo from First Blood” and “Andy Dufresne from Shawshank Redemption”. However, PECKHAM attempted escape did not fare as well. On 06/16/2012, at 5:49pm Barnstable Police Officer Scott Leger responded to Sears, Cape Cod Mall, Rte 132, Hyannis for a shoplifting suspect that had fled on foot from Sears Loss Prevention (SLP). PECKHAM was stopped as he attempted to load a 55” inch television set into a vehicle waiting outside. The vehicle was operated by a 20 yr male from South Yarmouth. Also in the vehicle was PECKHAM’s one (1) year old son. When first encountered by SLP, PECKHAM was cooperative and produced his identification. When he heard that Barnstable Police Officers were already responding, PECKHAM jumped into the waiting vehicle and told his associate to drive away. The associate refused and PECKHAM took off on foot leaving his identification and one (1) year old son behind.

PECKHAM jumped over a “storm water pond” fence and could be heard splashing in the water. Responding police units and SLP searched the area but could not locate PECKHAM. It was later learned that PECKHAM had entered a storm drain and would hide out under ground in the storm drain pipes for almost four (4) hours. At 9:30pm, BPD Dispatch received a call that a person was observed exiting a “man hole” in the CCM parking lot near Macy’s. The person observed exiting the “man hole” was later learned to be PECKHAM. Barnstable Patrol Unit and SCU members responded to the area. PECKMAN was arrested by SCU Member Peter Ginnetty on Hirammar Road, Hyannis. At the time of his arrest, PECKHAM had a “fist sized” rock on his person. PECKHAM told investigators he armed himself for fear rodents may try and attack him while he crawled through the storm drain system. He said he did not encounter any but did have to crawl over six (6) or so dead ones.

PECKHAM had crawled over a couple hundred yards inside the storm drain pipe system in an attempt to avoid arrest and spent four (4) hours underground. He reported no injuries



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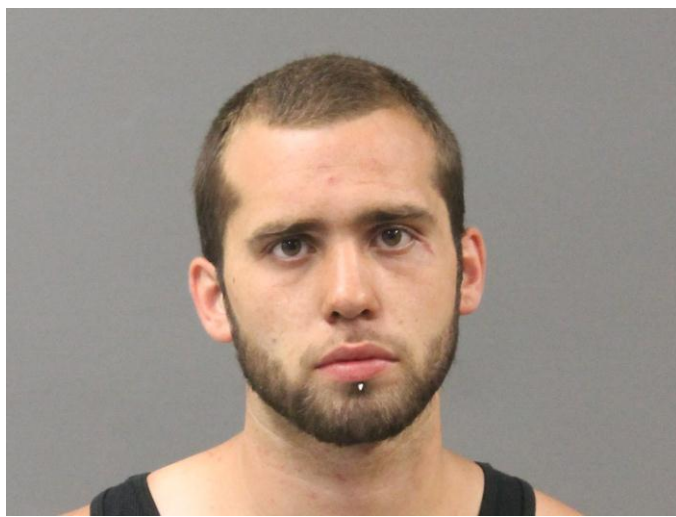
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and was transported to BPD for booking. He will be arraigned in Barnstable District Court on Monday June 18<sup>th</sup> on a single charge of Larceny Over \$250.00. A report was filed with the Department of Children and Family relating to PECKHAM leaving his one (1) son at Sears.



PECKHAM



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Barnstable SCU members also made a number of narcotics arrests over the weekend. During one of those arrests, an unruly intoxicated bystander was also arrested. On 06/15/2012, SCU members Barnstable Officer Keith Sexton and Barnstable Deputy Kim Saladino conducted a traffic stop on Barnstable Road near Main Street, Hyannis intersection. The vehicle had a revoked registration and the operator, Caitlin Costello, age 23, of Hyannis was also operating on a revoked driver's license. COSTELLO and the passenger, William Walsh, age 23, of Sandwich are well known to SCU members for their involvement with narcotics. A follow up investigation resulted in the recovery of an uncapped hypodermic needle containing heroin belonging to WALSH. Various prescription medication and additional heroin was located inside the vehicle. WALSH and COSTELLO were placed under arrest. They were charged with the following:

**COSTELLO:**

- Poss Class E with intent to distribute
- Poss Class A heroin
- Poss Class B suboxone
- Poss Class C clonazepam
- Poss Class E substance- 4 counts
- Operating after revocation
- Operating revoked registration

**WALSH:**

- Poss Class A heroin

Both were transported to BPD to be booked and will be arraigned in Barnstable District Court on Monday 06/18/2012.

It was during the WALSH/COSTELLO motor vehicle stop and subsequent investigation that SCU members encountered an unruly intoxicated pedestrian that began yelling at them. The pedestrian, Christopher R O'Connell, age 25, of Sandwich had no connection to the vehicle stop. He was standing on the corner yelling at SCU members on scene. Despite numerous requests to move along, O'CONNELL refused despite the fact that there was a large police presence in the area. At the time, there were five (5) SCU members and one uniformed Barnstable Officer on scene. Attempt to get the extremely intoxicated O'CONNELL to move along and stop creating a disturbance meet with negative results. The sidewalks were extremely crowded with pedestrians exiting and entering the two (2) area bars. Any traffic stop and/or police action in the area of "bars" has the potential to be dangerous as the situation could escalate with intoxicated people interfering with police.



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O'CONNELL behavior and level of intoxication resulted in SCU members attempting to place him into protective custody. He resisted attempts to be handcuffed and became even more disorderly. He was eventually secured with handcuffs. Found on his person were two (2) spring loaded knives and prescription medication. He was transported to BPD where his disorderly demeanor continued. O'CONNELL was charged with the following:

- Resisting arrest
- Disorderly conduct
- Open container of alcohol
- Poss Class E substance-clonazepam
- Poss Class B substance-suboxone
- Poss of a dangerous weapon-spring loaded knife

O'CONNELL is known to area law enforcement. He is currently awaiting trial in Falmouth District Court for 3<sup>rd</sup> offense OUI/alcohol. He will be arraigned in Barnstable District Court on Monday 06/18/2012.

For any media member requesting additional information and/or questions regarding this press release please contact Lt John Murphy @ e-mail address [murphyj@barnstablepolice.com](mailto:murphyj@barnstablepolice.com). Arrests photos are attached to the press release.



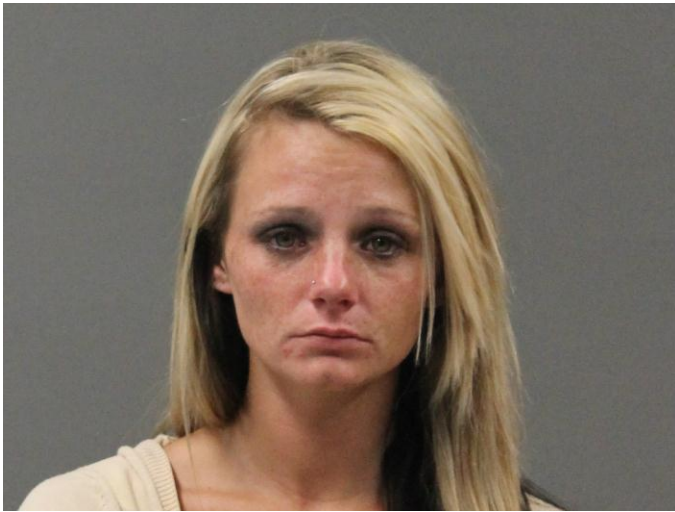
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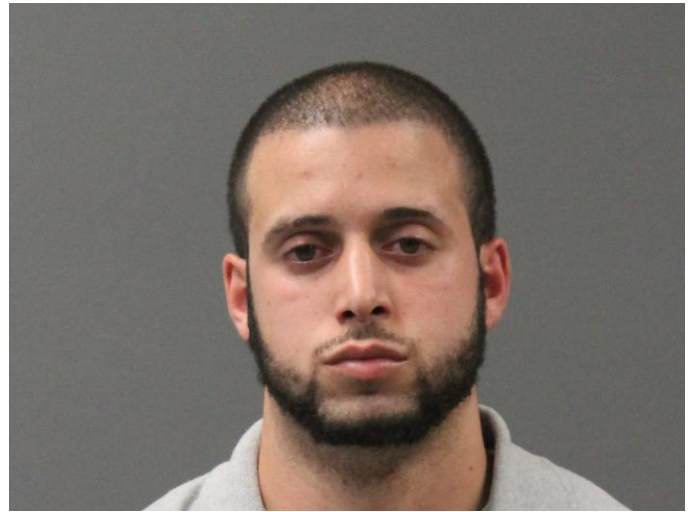
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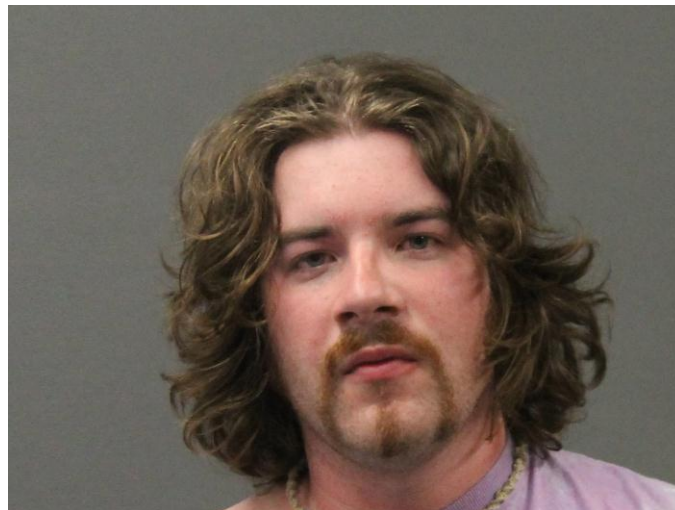
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COSTELLO



WALSH



O'CONNELL