



NEWS RELEASE

GLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT
GLENDALEAZ.COM/POLICE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 13th, 2021

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Glendale Detectives Arrest Catalytic Converter Thief with Leaky Vehicle

GLENDALE, AZ. – Glendale Police arrest 27-year-old Spencer Okeefe for two counts of felony burglary from vehicle after catalytic converters are cut from vehicles.

On July 14th, 2021, a catalytic converter was cut out from the undercarriage of a parked 2019 Kia Sorento S.U.V. while the victim was working a shift at a rehabilitation center located in Glendale. Video surveillance cameras at the facility captured images of a suspicious vehicle loitering in the parking lot. The vehicle appeared to be a BMW S.U.V. with a spray-painted gray and black camouflage paint job. Police began looking for the vehicle.

On August 4th, 2021, Glendale Police located the BMW S.U.V. with the unique camouflage paint job and detectives with the department's Gateway Investigations Team initiated surveillance on it. Detectives observed the driver, 27-year-old Spencer Okeefe, driving randomly about and stopping in various parking lots in the Phoenix Metro area. Detectives noticed that his vehicle was leaking fluids.

At approximately 5:15 AM on August 5th, 2021, a GIT detective entered an apartment complex parking lot located in the 4000 block of W Camelback Rd immediately after the BMW S.U.V. exited the lot. The detective found an empty parking space with freshly deposited vehicle fluids. In an adjacent



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parking space, the detective discovered that a catalytic converter had just been cut out from a 2008 Jeep Grand Cherokee. The detective detected a burning metal odor and observed metal shavings.

The BMW S.U.V. drove directly to a motel located in the 7100 block of N 59th Ave. A detective witnessed Okeefe quickly exit the BMW carrying a large backpack. Detectives moved in and arrested Okeefe. In the backpack, detectives located the catalytic converter stolen from the Jeep Grand Cherokee. Detectives also recovered a battery-powered metal cutting tool.

Okeefe admitted to a detective that he is taking and selling catalytic converters to support a fentanyl habit. Okeefe was out on release pending auto theft and drug charges from a Glendale incident from March of 2021. He was booked for two counts of burglary from vehicle and remains in custody in a Maricopa County jail.

Glendale Police are asking anyone with information about any other crimes involving this vehicle to contact Silent Witness or the Glendale Police Department at 623-930-3000.

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**Spanish translation available*

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Is to protect the lives and property of the people we serve.”

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Spencer Okeefe and Suspect Vehicle



Okeefe With Backpack Just Prior To Arrest

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Integrity / Courage / Excellence / Respect / Dedication / Compassion