



Columbus Police Department

P.O. Box 1866 – 510 Tenth Street
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1866



J. Dent-Fitzpatrick
Assistant Chief

Stoney Mathis
Chief of Police

L. H. Deaton
Assistant Chief

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2026

Media Contact: Brittany Santiago
706-225-4462

Arrests Made in Series of Air Conditioning Unit Thefts

The Columbus Police Department's Property Crimes Unit has arrested six individuals connected to a series of air conditioning unit thefts impacting businesses, churches, and residences across the city.

The cases date back to February of this year, when investigators saw an increase in these thefts. Suspects targeted AC units for metal components, later selling them to recycling facilities for a few hundred dollars.

Detectives identified and arrested six suspects, clearing 16 cases and securing 35 charges. The affected areas include Victory Drive, Oakland Park, Wynnton Road, Floyd Road, and Buena Vista Road.

The arrested individuals and charges are as follows:

- **Ronald Waters, 44**
 - Theft by Taking x2 (Felony)
 - Criminal Damage to Property
 - Possession of Tools
- **Michael Clay, 33**
 - Theft by Taking x8 (Felony)
 - Criminal Damage to Property x5
- **Lawrence Mark, 39**
 - Theft by Taking x4 (Felony)
 - Possession of Tools x3
- **Wade Daniel, 52**
 - Theft by Taking x4 (Felony)
- **Larry Golden, 62**
 - Theft by Taking x2 (Felony)
 - Criminal Damage to Property
 - Possession of Tools
- **Daquan Martinez, 32**
 - Theft by Taking x2 (Felony)
 - Criminal Damage to Property



Columbus Police Department

P.O. Box 1866 – 510 Tenth Street
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1866



J. Dent-Fitzpatrick
Assistant Chief

Stoney Mathis
Chief of Police

L. H. Deaton
Assistant Chief

Some suspects worked together and others acted alone. Recovered materials were sold to recycling businesses.

“This type of crime creates a significant burden for victims, often leaving families, businesses, and places of worship without essential cooling and facing thousands of dollars in repairs,” said Lt. Jane Edenfield. “If you’re responsible for these thefts, expect to be identified and arrested.”

The Columbus Police Department encourages residents and business owners to report suspicious activity, particularly around HVAC systems and vacant properties.

