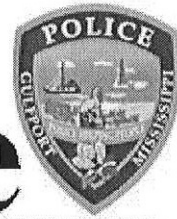


City of Gulfport News Release

Police Department PIO

www.gulfport-ms.gov/police



Chief Alan Weatherford today announced that:

Case# 10-007915

On March, 10, 2010, the Gulfport Police Department identified 32 year old Michael Mitchell of Crestview, Florida as the suspect acting as a city water employee and committing thefts once inside a residence.

On March 3rd and 4th the Gulfport Police Department received three (3) separate complaints of theft by an individual impersonating a city water department employee. On all three (3) occasions Mitchell arrived at the victims' addresses advising he needed to check the water inside the residence for safety reasons. Mitchell then stole items from the residence and fled the scene in a newer model red Ford F350 one ton pickup. On all three (3) occasions Mitchell was accompanied by a slender Hispanic female who has yet to be identified.

On March 9, 2010, the Gulfport Police Department received information that Mitchell had the stolen property in his possession and was identified by witnesses. Upon reviewing the underlying facts and circumstances with Justice Court Judge Louise Ladner she issued a grand larceny warrant for Mitchell's arrest with a bond of \$50,000.00.

Mitchell is described as a Hispanic male 5'09" 180 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes. Anyone with information is asked to phone the Gulfport Police Department at 228 868-5959.



Approved for release by: _____

Date: March 11, 2010

"Building a safer Gulfport together"