

LAKELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Media Release

Issuing Authority: Sergeant Terri Smith, PIO

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Bulletin #P11-2



Marcus Quentin Bankston
DOB: 9/23/83

Lakeland Police Crime Stoppers Suspect Turns Self In

On August 6, 2010, Lakeland Police released a crime stoppers bulletin showing an adult male as a suspect in the theft of a purse belonging to victim, Carolyn Gilbert. Gilbert was shopping at the Winn Dixie, 1305 Ariana Street, when she accidentally dropped her purse while in the checkout line. Gilbert is a disabled double amputee, legally blind, and was in a wheelchair at the time of the theft. Gilbert's purse contained identification and cash. Security cameras provided images of a male suspect standing behind Gilbert in the checkout line place the purse in his pocket and leave the area.

A crime stoppers bulletin was released on October 29, 2010, showing images of the male suspect in line with a female and two small children. On December 22, 2010, Marcus Bankston (DOB: 9/23/83 of 3215 Baird Avenue #J65) contacted Lakeland Police and identified himself the male in the crime stoppers bulletin. Bankston had been contacted by neighbors and friends and told about the crime stoppers images. Bankston knew that it was just a matter of time before his identity would be revealed so he decided to get it over with. Bankston did not receive any type of crime stoppers award for identifying himself.

A complaint affidavit has been completed charging Bankston with Grand Theft (F3). The original crime stoppers bulletin can be downloaded at www.insidelpd.com. Media inquiries should be directed to Sergeant Terri Smith, PIO, 863.834.6917.