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ROBBERY STRONGARM/GRAND THEFT FROM PERSON ATTEMPT
10-18-88 88-26637

On 10-18-88 at approximately 1750 hours Officer Trisler and I, (W. S. Brown), were sent to the Main Public Library at 1343 8th Street regarding a theft investigation. When we arrived we were met in front by Library Security Tony Anthony and victim #1 [redacted] and witness #1 [redacted]. Anthony informed Officer Trisler and I that he was contacted by employees at the library indicating that a theft suspect was inside the library. He told me [redacted], [redacted] and another female that was not at the location, a lady by the name of [redacted] pointed out an individual inside the library to him as being the one that attempted to take their purses.

[redacted] told me that she was exiting the library with her girlfriend [redacted] and while she was standing next to a blue trash can depositing some trash the male Black that she pointed out to Anthony came up to her, bumped into her very violently and shoved her and she felt some tugging at her purse as if he was reaching into the opening of the purse she was carrying. She felt movement as if his hand was inside the purse and she held on to her purse and moved quickly. [redacted] said moments earlier she had witnessed the same person attempt to take a purse from an older lady just north of them on the same street. [redacted] said that after the incident with her girlfriend they screamed and this suspect ran into the library.

I questioned [redacted] as if it was her opinion that the actual bump and push was to direct her attention so that the suspect could then take items from her open purse and she said that that's exactly what she thought. In my opinion, at this time, since I was unable to contact victim #2 [redacted] which Anthony obtained her name and phone number only, with the information [redacted] had given me and with my training while I worked the vice detail and pickpockets and theft from persons, this action, the bumping into a person trying to distract them is an attempt to divert the person's attention while they remove items from open purses and or wallets. At this point Anthony directed us to the library and pointed out the suspect indicated to him by victim [redacted] and witness [redacted].

Officer Trisler and I walked into the library, contacted this person, later identified as HAWKINS, and placed him under arrest for attempted grand theft from person. We escorted him out of the library to the police vehicle. At this point I recontacted [redacted] and [redacted] and they informed us that that indeed was the suspect. [redacted] indicated that she indeed saw the attempted theft of the purse from the other victim that was not at the location, however only saw the suspect bump into and shove her girlfriend [redacted] in front of the library. It was after this action that they saw the suspect run into the library and immediately informed the employees there of the theft attempt at which time security agent was advised of the situation. [redacted] advised there was no loss as a result of the attempted theft and Officer [redacted] escorted HAWKINS to the jail facility.

Figure 29: Page 2 of 3 of the police report