



Division of Capitol Police News Release

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Capitol Police make arrest in expensive music instrument theft

RICHMOND – The Virginia Division of Capitol Police has arrested a man on felony charges for stealing a high-end saxophone during a reception at the Science Museum of Virginia and later using it to obtain a \$300 loan at a pawn shop.

Alex Robert Sheaffer, 29, of no fixed address, was taken into custody Friday night by Richmond police on an unrelated matter. Richmond officers determined Capitol Police had obtained three warrants for Sheaffer, so they turned him over to Capitol Police, who booked him late Friday night at the Richmond City Justice Center.

Sheaffer was being held at the jail Saturday, charged with one count each of grand larceny, buying or receiving stolen goods and obtaining money through false pretenses. The charges stem from the theft of an alto saxophone valued at \$5,000.

Capitol Police said Sheaffer stole a Selmer Super Action 80 Series II alto sax from a musician who was helping provide entertainment for a reception on the night of April 13 at the Dewey Gottwald Center, an events center at the rear of the Science Museum of Virginia campus at 2500 W. Broad St.

Capitol Police investigators, who were called to the center just after midnight on April 14, identified Sheaffer as a member of one of the catering crews working the event. Investigators said Sheaffer took the saxophone to a local pawn shop, where he used it to secure a \$300 loan. Investigators found the saxophone and obtained warrants for Sheaffer's arrest.

The saxophone has been returned to its owner.

"I appreciate the quick work of our investigators and the cooperation of our partners at the Richmond Police Department," said Col. Anthony S. Pike, chief of the Capitol Police. "It's important for our stakeholders to know they and their belongings are safe, whether they are on state property at Capitol Square or any of the nearby properties."

Sheaffer's booking photograph is below.



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