



CITY OF CLEARWATER

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UNUSUAL INCREASE IN BEACH BLANKET THEFTS THIS MONTH

Clearwater, Fla. – The summer rush has gone, but Clearwater Police are investigating an unusual increase in beach blanket thefts. Since September 3, 2009, there have been 17 reported thefts. “This is unusual this time of year, especially with the decrease in pedestrian and vehicular traffic,” said Lieutenant Joe Young, who oversees the Clearwater Beach district. Stolen items include wallets, cameras, phones, iPods and even car keys.

In at least three cases, a suspect stole victims’ car keys from the beach, located their vehicles and stole items from the vehicle. Detectives identified the suspect, **John Keegan, DOB 5-25-67**, and arrested him on September 23, 2009. He stole and fraudulently used credit cards obtained from vehicles and in one case took the victim’s vehicle. Clearwater police have linked Keegan to three beach blanket thefts. Additional charges are pending, however police do not believe he is responsible for all of the thefts.

Clearwater Police want to remind beachgoers to secure their valuables. Do not leave your personal belongings unattended on the beach. Do not be an easy target for criminal activity.

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