



FORTUNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Casey J. Day · Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

DATE / TIME ISSUED: **Thursday, September 10, 2020** **10:00 A.M.**

Fortuna Police Recover Occupied Stolen Vehicle

On Wednesday, September 9th, 2020 at approximately 10:11 A.M., a Fortuna Police Officer was conducting routine patrol checks near 12th Street and U.S. Highway 101. While patrolling the area, the officer observed a stolen, Toyota, pick-up truck being driven northbound on HWY 101. Fortuna Police conducted a high risk, felony traffic enforcement stop on the stolen vehicle and contacted the driver who was identified as 30 year-old, Fortuna resident, Marcus Wade Smith Jr. Fortuna Police were assisted by units from the Ferndale Police Department.

Marcus Wade Smith Jr. was determined to be the driver and sole occupant of the stolen Toyota. Smith was subsequently found to be on active formal felony probation out of Humboldt County for a previous conviction of vehicle theft. The stolen vehicle was returned to the owner at the conclusion of this investigation. Due to current COVID-19 protocols, Marcus Wade Smith Jr. was cited and released without incident for a multitude of violations. Smith is charged with felony violations of section 496d(a) of the California Penal Code – **Possession of a Stolen Vehicle** and section 1203.2(a) of the California Penal Code – **Violation of Probation**. Additional charges will be filed with the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office.

The Fortuna Police Department remains committed to public safety. FOPD would also like to thank the Ferndale Police for their assistance with this investigation. Any questions regarding this incident can be directed to the Patrol Commander, Lieutenant Matt Eberhardt at (707)-725-7550.

ISSUED BY: Casey J. Day, Chief of Police

DATE: 09/10/2020

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