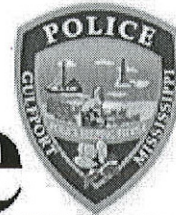


City of Gulfport News Release

Police Department PIO

www.gulfport-ms.gov/police



Chief Alan Weatherford today announced that:

Case # : 09-037501

On January 15, 2010, the Gulfport Police Department arrested 26 year old James Matthew Rines of Gulfport, MS and 19 year old Christopher George White of Biloxi and charged them both with attempted armed robbery.

On October 16, 2009, the Gulfport Police Department took a report of an attempted armed robbery in the 3300 block of West Beach Blvd. The victim advised that the suspects attempted to rob him at gunpoint and an altercation ensued. The suspects fled the scene.

On November 16, 2009, 24 year old Nicholas Fontenot of Gulfport and Rines were identified as suspects. Upon review of the underlying facts and circumstances a warrant was issued for their arrest by Justice Court Judge Melvin Ray. Fontenot was subsequently arrested and charged on November 16, 2009, at the Harrison County Adult Detention facility where he was in custody on an unrelated charge.

On January 14, 2010, Rines was taken into custody by the Simpson County Sheriff's Office on the outstanding warrant.

On January 15, 2010, Rines was transported to the Gulfport Police Department and upon booking and processing he was transported to the Harrison County Adult Detention Facility in lieu of a \$50,000.00 bond.

On January 15, 2010, White was also identified as a suspect in the crime and upon advising Justice Court Judge Melvin Ray of the underlying facts and circumstances a warrant was issued for White's arrest. White was subsequently taken into custody at the Harrison County Adult Detention facility where he was being held on an unrelated matter and is being held in lieu of a \$50,000.00 bond.

Approved for release by: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. Weatherford", written over a horizontal line.

Date: January 19, 2010

"Building a safer Gulfport together"