

Detroit Police warn of fake cops who rob motorists

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By Francis X. Donnelly

The Detroit News

DETROIT – Police are searching for four men **who** impersonated police as they pulled over three **motorists** and stole their cars.

The four also robbed a man on foot.

The men, driving a banged-up black 1990's Ford Crown Victoria, flashed a white spot light into the victim's vehicle and got him to pull over, police said. Identifying themselves as police, the men ordered the victim to exit the car and searched him, taking his possessions and the car.

The first of the four incidents occurred May 22 at 2:05 a.m. near Lakeview and Forrest while the last happened June 1 near Avondale and Barrington.

The cars stolen were a 2006 Dodge Stratus, a 2004 Chevy Impala and a 1998 Olds Delta 88, police said.

The men were described as black, in their early 20s, between 5-foot-8 and 5-foot-10, wearing sweatshirts and blue jeans, with gold badges on a chain around their necks.

Their car has vehicular damage to its side doors and the wheels made a loud noise, suggesting that its brake pads may be worn.

Police said that unmarked cars pulling over **motorists** have flashing red-and-blue lights

If **motorists** are unsure whether it's the police pulling them over, they should activate their hazard lights, drive to a police district or well-lighted area and, if they have a cell phone, call 911 and tell the dispatcher they're concerned about being pulled over by a **fake** officer.

Anyone with information about the four men impersonating police should call the armed robbery task force at 313-596-1951 or leave anonymous message at Crime Stoppers, 1-800-SPEAK-UP.

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