

Onondaga County Sheriff's Office News

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Sheriff



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Suspect Forces Victim to Drive to ATM and Withdrawal Funds

Town of Onondaga, New York – The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office reports that Sheriff's Detectives have charged a Syracuse woman in connection with a robbery after she forces her victim to drive to nearby ATM and withdrawal money.

Dena Phoenix (48) of Berwick Road South, Syracuse, was charged yesterday afternoon with Robbery in the 3rd Degree and Unlawful Imprisonment in the 2nd Degree. Sheriff Detectives say that at approximately 12:59 pm, Deputies along with Officer from the Syracuse Police Department responded to the M&T Bank located at 1621 South Ave in the City of Syracuse after receiving a 911 call about a 21 year old female victim who was held against her will and robbed. When Officers arrived on scene they quickly learned that the incident started in the parking lot of the Upstate University Hospital Community Campus located at 4900 Broad Road in the Town of Onondaga.

The victim informed Deputies that after leaving the hospital, she walked to her vehicle, which was parked in the parking lot and upon getting into the driver's seat she was confronted by a black female later identified at Phoenix, who entered the vehicle through the passenger side. Phoenix claimed she needed a ride and ordered the victim to drive to a nearby ATM. The victim, in fear for her safety, complied with the Phoenix's demands and drove to the M&T Bank where she was then forced to withdrawal an undisclosed amount of money. Phoenix took the money and immediately fled on foot. The victim was unharmed in the incident.

Subsequent investigation by Sheriff's Detectives, Phoenix was identified and located a short time after the incident. Detectives believe Phoenix may have victimized others and encourage anyone with information to call the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division at 435-3081. The Sheriff's Office would like to remind the public to be aware of your surroundings and alert to nearby activity when walking to your vehicle. Always approach your vehicle with your keys in hand and when you get in the vehicle, close and lock the doors immediately.

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