



# Bloomfield Township Police Department

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## PRESS RELEASE

**February 7, 2023**

Bloomfield Township, MI - Raphael Smith (29 years old), Demerius Hollis (30 years old), and Samuel Bender JR (32 years old) were all charged with Motor Vehicle Theft, Larceny of Personal Property from a Vehicle, Burglary, Illegal Use of a Credit Card, and Larceny of a Firearm.

After months of investigative work, detectives learned that these individuals are responsible for hundreds of property thefts, and over twenty-five stolen vehicles from all over the Metro-Detroit area. These crimes occurred between October, 2022 and January, 2023.

During the investigation, detectives were able to identify Bender as a suspect responsible for using a stolen credit card. Surveillance camera reviews also helped identify Smith and Hollis as occupants of several stolen vehicles. Detectives conducted surveillance and confirmed that all three subjects were involved in this ongoing crime spree.

On 12/29/2022, officers conducted multiple search warrants at residences in Detroit where Smith and Hollis were both taken into custody. Bender was arrested by the Bloomfield Township Police Department in January of 2023. During the search warrant detectives recovered a large amount of stolen property and recovered a total of seven stolen handguns.

Raphael Smith and Demerius Hollis were charged in Oakland County 6th Circuit Court and given a bond of over a million dollars. Samuel Bender was charged in 48th District Court and is being held on a \$300,000 bond. All three subjects are being charged with Conducting a Criminal Enterprise by the Macomb County Prosecutors Office.

This was a complex case that was closed due to the exceptional effort of the Troy Special Investigations Unit. The Special Investigations Unit is comprised of officers from the Auburn Hills Police Department, Birmingham Police Department, Bloomfield Township Police Department, Royal Oak Police Department, and Troy Police Department. These

investigators work together in a collaborative, multi-jurisdictional unit that investigates criminal activity impacting the region.

We would also like to recognize the collaborative efforts of Canton Police Department, Livonia Police Department, Sterling Heights Police Department, and Michigan State Police.

Although these suspects were taken into custody, Metro-Detroit agencies are still seeing an influx in auto thefts and larcenies from autos. The Bloomfield Township Police Department is reminding residents to lock your car, remove all valuables (including the key fob), and NEVER leave a firearm in your vehicle.



Demerius Marco HOLLIS  
DOB: 12/08/1993



Raphael Antonio SMITH  
DOB: 01/19/1994



Samuel BENDER JR  
DOB: 09/21/1991

**Ofc. Nick Soley**  
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*Media inquiries should be directed to Public Information Officer Soley at 248-433-7724 or [nsoley@bloomfieldtwp.org](mailto:nsoley@bloomfieldtwp.org).*

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