

2019 SERC Award of Merit Winners

Nominees: Detective James Brown
Metro Nashville Police Department
Auto Theft Unit

Special Agent Kenny Mash
NICB

Special Agent Danny Wilson
NICB

On May 9th 2018 Detective Brown received a recovery report listing **Mr. Mike Chison** as a complainant. Mr. **Chison** had recently purchased a 2017 Cadillac Escalade from the Memphis area Craigslist. Shortly after Mr. **Chison** purchased this vehicle a "check engine alert" was displayed within the vehicles instrument cluster.

On May 8th 2018, Mr. **Chison** drove this vehicle to the Crest Cadillac dealership in Metro Center to have the issue fixed. Once inside the service area the dash mounted VIN would not register for the service advisor so a computer had to be connected into the ECM (Engine Control Module) reader. It was at this point that the vehicles "true" VIN number was discovered, Police were summoned and the vehicles stolen status was discovered.

The vehicle was found to have been reported as stolen in Atlanta, Ga. on April 25th 2018. The car was towed to the Metro Tow in lot and held for Auto Theft.

Once Det. Brown was assigned a recovery case he contacted Mr. **Chison** who explained how he came into possession of this vehicle. Mr. **Chison** reported he'd been looking to purchase a Cadillac Escalade on Craigslist when he saw this vehicle (2017 Cadillac Escalade) advertised in the Memphis area. Mr. **Chison** contacted the seller and ultimately they came to an agreement on price and on April 27th, 2018, Mr. **Chison** drove to a specified location within Baldwin, MS where he paid the seller \$43,000 cash in exchange for this vehicle and a Georgia Title (later determined to be a fake).

Detective Brown verified the status of the vehicle being stolen and he interviewed **Chison** about his purchase of the Cadillac from the subject in Mississippi. It was discovered that **Chison** had contacted the same seller (later identified as **Terry Richey**) in March--prior to this purchase, about another Cadillac Escalade that had been advertised on Craigslist. The seller (**Terry Richey**) was also trying to sale a 2015 Cadillac Escalade when **Chison** purchased this one.

Detective Brown also discovered that there was another 2018 Cadillac Escalade on Craigslist for sale by the same seller (**Richey**) in Tupelo, Mississippi for \$48,500. A plan was set in motion and Special Agent Danny Wilson who at the time was employed as a SGT with the Tennessee Highway Patrol Criminal Investigations Division began making undercover phone calls to **Richey** in an effort to purchase the 2018 Cadillac.

Since the meeting to purchase the stolen Escalade was set to occur in Mississippi, the operation and meeting with Suspect Richey, Det. Brown, SA Mash, and SA Wilson began working with several Mississippi agencies including the Lee County Sheriff Department, Tupelo Police Department and the MBI (Mississippi Bureau of Investigation). As a result of this undercover operation the 2018 Cadillac Escalade and a 2018 Ford F-250 truck were recovered from suspect **Terry Richey**.

After Terry Richey agreed to talk to law enforcement it was revealed that he (Richey) was getting the vehicles from a subject in Birmingham, Alabama known to him as "Bo". "Bo" was later identified as Andreas Anderson from Bessemer, Alabama. Andreas Anderson is a suspect of several vehicle thefts in Birmingham, Alabama from new car dealers. Terry Richey also told law enforcement about another Ford F-250 and a Cadillac Escalade that was sold to individuals in Alabama. These two vehicles were recovered at the Oxford, Alabama Police Department. A 2018 GMC 2500 was also recovered from Cottonwood, Tennessee.

The result of vehicles recovered from Detective James Brown sharing information with other law enforcement agencies are six (6) total, a 2018, a 2017, and a 2016 Cadillac Escalade, two (2) 2018 Ford F-250 trucks and one (1) 2018 GMC 2500 truck. Total value of the vehicles recovered is estimated at \$530,000. There is also one 2015 Cadillac Escalade that has not been recovered at this time.

The approximate value of the four (4) Cadillac Escalades is \$300,000, two (2) 2018 Ford F-250 trucks is \$160,000 and one (1) GMC Sierra 2500 truck is \$70,000.

Total value of the recovered vehicles is estimated at \$530,000.00

This theft ring could not have been discovered and dismantled as well as all of the vehicles recovered had it not been for the diligence of Detective Brown looking beyond a simple recovery. His sharing of information and involving other agencies is a fine example of what can be accomplished by agencies working together and sharing information.