



News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office

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Deputies Say Employee Staged Convenience Store Robbery



Gregory Semien



Virgus Johnson

Sheriff's Office detectives say a man who works at a south-east Shelby County convenience store staged a robbery there this morning. Deputies arrested him and the supposed robber late this afternoon.

Sheriff's detectives arrested Gregory Semien, 22, and Virgus Johnson, 21, both of Memphis, as they tried to redeem Tennessee Lottery tickets taken during a convenience store robbery early this morning at the Circle K store at 4195 Hacks Cross Road.

Just after 2 o'clock, a man wearing a hooded sweatshirt robbed the clerk of cash and \$200 worth of lottery tickets. Semien was the clerk who reported the robbery.

This afternoon Sheriff's detectives got a call from officials at the Tennessee Lottery who reported a man was trying to redeem one of the stolen lottery tickets at a store on Summer Avenue. Deputies arrested Johnson and then realized Semien had driven him to the store.

Deputies are investigating whether the two could be involved in another recent robbery at the same Circle K store. Early on the morning of November 23rd Semien was working as the clerk when he reported being robbed by two men who got away with cash.

A third man waited outside the store. The three escaped in a gold or silver sedan. No arrests have been made in that case.

Here are limited descriptions of the three suspects who appeared to possibly be in their twenties:

- Suspect #1 5'9, blue jeans, gold pullover jacket with a hood
- Suspect #2 6'0, navy leather pullover jacket, blue jeans, dreadlocks
- Suspect #3 5-9, black pullover jacket

Surveillance camera images of the suspects involved in the November 23rd robbery are being sent with this news release.

Johnson and Semien have both been charged with Theft of Property Over \$500. Semien also faces a charge of False Reporting.

Anyone with information about that robbery is asked to call Sergeant Ray Sides at the Shelby County Sheriff's Office General Investigation Bureau at **(901) 545-5600** or Crime Stoppers at **(901) 528-CASH (2274)**.

(End of Release)