



UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP
POLICE DEPARTMENT

175 WEST VALLEY FORGE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406
Business: 610-265-3232 Fax: 610-265-2711

PRESS RELEASE FORM

Type of Incident: Pick-Pocket Thefts	Incident Number: Multiple	Date of Incident: January – July 2015
Prepared By: Lt. Michael Martin	Date: 17 July 2015	
Reviewed By: Captain James Early	Date: 17 July 2015	
Released to: News Media Group, Records Division		
Board of Supervisors		
Police Supervisory Staff & Detectives		

Narrative:

Beginning in January 2015, the Upper Merion Township Police Department has investigated approximately twenty (20) pick pocket incidents throughout the Township. We believe that several of these incidents are connected wherein the same perpetrators are present during the thefts. Most of the incidents have occurred while the victims were dining at local eateries with their purses hanging on the back of the chair. These crimes are most often committed by thieves working in pairs. In several cases the perpetrators struck while the victims were distracted (either picking up their order from the counter, talking with someone at the table or a diversion by one of the perpetrators). Other incidents have occurred while the victim was in the act of shopping for clothes or groceries. All of the stores and eateries in which these incidents have taken place are fully cooperating with the investigations.

To date, three perpetrators have been identified and warrants will be issued for their arrest. Two of these perpetrators have been linked to a professional pick pocketing group that travels throughout the United States committing such crimes. The Upper Merion Township Police Department is currently working with law enforcement agencies in four states and several local jurisdictions. We are asking for the public's help in identifying the persons depicted in the attached photographs. Anyone with information as to the identity of these individuals is asked to call the **Upper Merion Township Police Department Detective Division at (610) 265-3232.**

Additionally, the Upper Merion Township Police Department suggests the following measures to keep yourself safe from pick pockets:

- Know your surroundings & be mindful of persons around you.

- Never hang your purse on the back of your chair when dining in public. Place it on the floor between your feet or if seated at a bar, hang it on a hook (if provided) beneath the bar top.
- Keep your purse securely closed and don't leave it unattended in a shopping cart or baby stroller.
- Write "Ask for ID" on the signature line on that back of your credit cards.
- Monitor personal bank accounts regularly and report any suspicious transactions.
- If you do become a victim, contact the police immediately.





