



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



Media Relations Information for 10/26/2016

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**La Porte Officers and Investigators
work hand-in-hand to catch auto thief**



Francisco Martinez
05/31/1979

Shortly before 4 a.m., during the early morning hours of October 21st, La Porte Police officers responded to the Hampton Inn & Suites in reference to a report of a stolen Ford F-250 pickup truck. While no immediate leads existed, investigators soon-after collected and examined a series of surveillance videos, and ensured that all patrolmen and area media groups were aware of the descriptors surrounding the suspects and vehicle believed involved.

Although the stolen pick-up was eventually found abandoned on the east side of Houston hours later, LPPD patrol officers continued to look for the suspect's Mitsubishi sedan which had been seen in the hotel parking lot on the night of the auto theft. A keen eye by one LPPD officer then led to the observation of the suspect vehicle several nights later as the vehicle traveled through the City's hotel corridor. The alert patrol officer stopped the vehicle and a subsequent investigation led to 44 year-old Francisco Martinez of Galena Park being charged with the theft of the F-250 a few nights prior.