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MAYOR

# Mansfield Police Department

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GARY HOBBS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

## **Re: Stolen Vehicle Recovery**

On *January 15, 2015* Mansfield Police received a report of a fraud case at Mansfield Auto World. Investigators discovered that an unknown suspect had used two stolen credit cards to purchase a vehicle over the internet. The cards were initially approved, but then were declined a few days later.

The vehicle, which already been shipped to Florida on a transport truck, was then placed into the national database (NCIC) as stolen. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. Customs Service in Florida contacted Mansfield Police and informed them that the vehicle had already been loaded onto a freight-ship bound for Africa. Investigators learned a few days later that after the ship departed from Florida it had actually travelled up the East coast and docked again in Pennsylvania to pick up additional freight. At that point the U.S. Customs Service was able to seize the vehicle and remove it from the ship. Mansfield P.D. detectives have already been contacted by detectives with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office who are also working a case involving the same suspect and same credit card information. The case remains under investigation and it appears that this suspect is part of an international smuggling operation. Mansfield P.D. is being assisted by the U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Secret Service, and the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office.

### ***Gary Hobbs***

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**To Protect and Serve**