

July 02, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Suspect in vehicle theft and child abduction arrested**

At 1:33 p.m. on Saturday, March 2, 2013, Springfield police responded to a shopping center in the 1100 block of East Commercial Street in reference to a report of a child abduction. Upon arrival, officers contacted Jerry Blue, Jr., who reported that he had parked his vehicle in the parking lot with his one-year-old daughter and four-year-old son inside. He left the keys in the vehicle and the children in the back seat and went inside a store for a short period of time. When he came back out of the store, he saw his vehicle leaving the parking lot westbound on Commercial Street with the children still inside. Witnesses identified the suspect as a white female.

At approximately 1:56 p.m. that day, the four-year-old boy was found walking alone and unharmed in the 800 block of South Newton Avenue after being dropped off in the area by the suspect. He described the suspect as a white female. At approximately 9:50 p.m., the one-year-old girl was found unharmed in the stolen car by a family member. The car had been parked in the parking lot of an apartment building in the 400 block of West Mount Vernon Street.

During the follow-up investigation, investigators learned from the four-year-old boy that the stolen vehicle was involved in a collision soon after it was taken. The investigator researched calls for service and found that a crash was reported in the 700 block of East Lynn Avenue at approximately 1:30 p.m. on March 2. The reporting person in that incident indicated that a vehicle similar to the one stolen from Jerry Blue, Jr. collided with her parked car and left the scene. The caller said she saw the driver of the suspect vehicle and identified her as a white female.

As the investigation continued, an anonymous tip was received indicating that Cynthia Brown-Heisler was the person responsible for these crimes. Investigators followed up on that tip and were able to confirm her involvement. On July 1, [Cynthia Brown-Heisler was arrested](#) in reference to this investigation.

The case was presented to the Greene County Prosecutor's Office and charges of 1st Degree Tampering with a Motor Vehicle, 1st Degree Endangering Welfare of a Child (2 counts), and Leaving the Scene of a Motor Vehicle Accident were filed against Cynthia Brown-Heisler with a bond of \$25,000.

The charges announced herein are merely an accusation and Cynthia Brown-Heisler is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

SPD Case# 13-8663

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Release authorized by: Lt. Tad Peters