Township of Monroe
County of Middlesex

Griffin M. Banos
Chief of Police

Department of Police:
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For Immediate Release:

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Retail Theft Investigation Leads to Three Arrests, Stolen Handgun & Narcotics Seized

The Monroe Township Police Department arrested three men following a series of retail thefts that began with an October 27th shoplifting at Tractor Supply and continued with a November 3rd incident at Stop & Shop.

Responding officers located a maroon sedan tied to both thefts leaving the area of the shopping center. A motor vehicle stop identified the occupants as Hassan Cooper (37) and Miles Deaton (24). Additional officers searching the nearby Concordia community located Anthony Morrison (34) hiding in the woods.
Nearly $1,700 in stolen merchandise was recovered between the two incidents.

During the stop, officers found drug paraphernalia, leading to further investigation. A search warrant for the involved vehicle uncovered a stolen CZ P-10 F 9mm handgun, a loaded magazine, additional ammunition, suspected crack cocaine, heroin and PCP, a digital scale, paraphernalia, and more stolen merchandise. The firearm had been reported stolen out of Georgia in 2024.

Charges Filed:
• Morrison: Shoplifting, obstruction, paraphernalia
• Deaton: Shoplifting, paraphernalia
• Cooper: Accomplice to shoplifting, leader of an organized retail theft ring, and additional weapons and narcotics charges stemming from the search warrant, including unlawful possession of a weapon and possession with intent to distribute CDS.

Chief Banos stated: “This case is a great example of our patrol officers’ attentiveness and teamwork. Their quick initial response, thorough initial reports, and coordinated search efforts directly led to these arrests.”

All three suspects were transported to the Middlesex County Adult Correction Center. The investigation remains active. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective O’Brien at 732-521-0222.