



# Daytona Beach Police Department Public Service Announcement

129 Valor Blvd, Daytona Beach, Fl. 32114-8169

Phones (386) 671-5100 PIO 671-5123 Media Line 671-5112 Fax 671-3351

Anonymous Text or Web Tips [www.dbpd.us](http://www.dbpd.us) Text DBTIPS to CRIMES (274637)

Crimestoppers of Volusia County 1-888-277- TIPS (8477)

February 21, 2012

## Traveler Group

Over the course of several years this agency has responded to numerous incidents in which victims were duped and subsequently robbed during a "3 Card Monte" scam. Parking lots, hotels, gas stations, and other areas where many unrelated people congregate are prime locations for these incidents to occur. This is a recurring event in the City of Daytona Beach and surrounding areas during high profile events. Indications are that the group is back in Central Florida. They are likely to offend again soon in our area because of the crowds attending upcoming racing events.

**USE CAUTION: The individuals in the traveler group suspected of committing these crimes are known to be armed and are known to be violent people. They should be considered armed and dangerous. When approaching suspected travelers officers should be aware that the travelers will have "backup" much faster than the officer will. This could potentially create a very dangerous tactical situation for a single officer or even larger numbers of officers. It is not unusual for the travelers to have twelve or more persons involved in a single incident and it is suspected that they may have more in a perimeter around the incident.**

Because of the modus operandi and past incidents in the area, it is believed that the suspects in these most recent cases are part of a large band of Travelers. In the most recent incidents in our area both victims described that the perpetrators used violence against them during or after the taking of property. It is not unusual for the group to overwhelm the victim and strip the victim clean of all valuables. The suspects flee in multiple directions immediately after the crime and typically move on to the next target immediately. In our most recent events the group went only 2.5 miles to the east to commit another attack. In the most recent events it was reported that the group were all wearing the same hats. This may have been a way for the crew to quickly identify each other. Both of our recent victims were in their hotel rooms when the suspects contacted them with a ruse to get them to the game. It is unknown how the suspects selected their targets, but it can be implied that they do thorough surveillance prior to engaging their targets, during the engagement, and their egress. It should also be noted that in our most recent incidents the suspects chose hotels with exterior corridors to commit their crimes. As stated, the group should be expected to use any area they see fit to commit the crimes.

Persons with information may text "CRIMES" (274637) with a cell phone or log on to [www.dbpd.us](http://www.dbpd.us) and click on Anonymous Web Tips. When using a cell phone, all messages should begin with "DBTIPS." Tipsters remain anonymous.



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Please be vigilant and attempt to identify and intervene in these incidents before they occur. **Do not forget that these groups will operate with many personnel and that those numbers may create an officer safety hazard.** Please direct any correspondence and information relevant to these incidents to Detective Eric Jacobs at 386-671-5211, [jacobse@dbpd.us](mailto:jacobse@dbpd.us) .

**Call 911**

**Anonymous Tip Line 386-671-5454**

***Text A Tip to C-R-I-M-E-S (274637) and in the body of the text use the code "DBTIPS" along with any information***

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