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Press Release

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[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA Police, Helped by LIRR Train Crew, Catch Suspect Wanted for Repeated Port Washington Branch Thefts

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today announced that the MTA Police Department had arrested a 20-year-old Queens man with multiple counts of larceny related to three incidents in which he is suspected of stealing an iPhone, iPod and purse from LIRR customers on the Port Washington Branch.

The suspect, Thomas Gray of 214th Place, is a suspect in three incidents of theft:

- Feb. 19, 2011 – stolen purse
- Jan. 6, 2012 – stolen iPod
- Jan. 26, 2012 – stolen iPhone

In the Jan. 26 incident, a passenger on board the 7:55 a.m. train from Port Washington reported that her iPhone had been stolen. It was later recovered using an app that can be used to track the phone if it goes missing. Yesterday, LIRR train crew members remembered the suspect from the Jan. 26 incident and spotted him on board the 10:49 a.m. train from Port Washington, due Penn Station at 11:37 a.m. Because he was refusing to pay the train fare, the suspect was asked to leave the train at the next station, Bayside. The train crew notified the MTA Police, who apprehended the suspect without incident near the Bayside Station.

"This is a good example of the LIRR train crews and the MTAPD working together in order to apprehend a thief," said MTA Police Chief Michael Coan.

"I would like to commend the fast actions of the LIRR crew members and the MTA police that led to this arrest," said LIRR President Helena Williams. "I urge our customers to be aware that iPhones, iPads and other popular electronic devices are increasingly the target of thieves onboard our trains. Be aware of your surroundings at all times and put these devices away when boarding and exiting trains for your own personal safety."

To encourage MTA customers to take steps to protect their property from theft, the MTA has launched a "Safeguard Your Stuff" public service ad campaign. The MTA PD has handed out 10,000 bilingual fliers that read: "Cell phones and electronic devices are prime targets for thieves. Remain aware at all times." [Click here to view flier in PDF format.](#)

The defendant is charged with two counts of grand larceny in the 4th degree, one count of petit larceny, three counts of criminal possession of stolen property and one count of theft of service.