



# CITY OF MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

2 James street Middletown, NY 10940

(845) 343-3151 FAX (845) 343-2660



## *Intra Agency*

### **Memo**

JE

**To: Chief John Ewanciw**  
**From: Lt Francis Graziano**  
**Date: October 20, 2017**  
**Re: Arrest of Jason Mendoza and Michael Jackson-Personnel  
Property including money combined together**

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I am in receipt of a Supervisor's Investigation from Lt Doty pertaining to two defendant's personal property being mixed together during their property inventory in the booking room.

From all accounts involved there was a foot pursuit that resulted in the arrest of Michael Jackson. The arrest of Michael Jackson is justifiable and is not in question. During the arrest procedure Jason Mendoza was arrested for an open case that Det. Slanovec was assigned to. The arrest of Jason Mendoza was justifiable and not in question.

Det. Mecocci reported patting Michael Jackson down at the scene and does not find any money on his person. However he does notice crumbled up bills lying on the ground where Michael Jackson fell. Sgt. Franck arrived on scene and places all the necessary evidence from the taser deployment in a bag along with one identification card and one bank/credit card. No one from the scene mentions picking up money. At no time was there any mention as to which detective completed the search of Mr. Jackson at the Police Station or who placed his property in a blue bin.

Det. Slanovec stated that he removed two cell phones and money from Jason Mendoza and placed them in a blue bin and turned it over to Det. Artola. This all occurred in the booking room of the police department.

It is clear that the property of both defendants ended up in the same blue bin. Det. Mecocci asked Michael Jackson how much money he had and he replied a "bunch". When Mendoza was asked how much money he had and he replied "\$700.00. The amount of money in question was \$670.00.

Based on the confusion all money was secured into safekeeping so that an investigation could be completed to determine who the money belonged to.

Lt Doty completed his investigation and had ID Weymer complete an affidavit to return the funds back to Jason Mendoza.

After reviewing this investigation it appears there were "too many hands in the cookie jar". Everyone was staying busy working, but it seems as if everyone was bouncing around, not staying with their prisoner. In the end I feel that Lt. Doty made the right decision returning the money to Jason Mendoza. There is no question Jason Mendoza had money on him, and at no time did anyone report Michael Jackson having money on him. Det Mecocci and Det Artola refer to crumbled up bills on the scene but it is unclear what that was, who owned it, and where it went. From all

accounts the crumpled up money did not make it back to the police station.

Lt Doty counseled Det Slanovec, Det Mecocci and Det Artola about the importants of communication between themselves and anyone else who responds to a scene to make sure all personal property is accounted for.

Based on this investigation I feel that a counseling session directed at each detective expressing the importance of safe guarding third party property will be enough to remedy this situation. I would also like to address the fact that no one mentions doing a search of Michael Jackson at the Police Department.

Respectfully Submitted



Lieutenant Francis Graziano  
Bureau Commander of Services



**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**DETECTIVE BUREAU**



**2 James Street  
Middletown, NY 10940**

**Memorandum**

**To:** Lt. Graziano  
**From:** Lt. Doty   
**Date:** September 27, 2017  
**Subject:** Booking of Jason Mendoza, property & money inventory.

**Synopsis:**

1. On or around June 19<sup>th</sup> I was made aware of an arrest of Michael Jackson, DOB [REDACTED], that took place near 203-211 North St. on June 15<sup>th</sup> at about 15:00. Shortly after Mr. Jackson's arrest and in close proximity to that arrest, Jason Mendoza was arrested.
  - a. I was notified by P.O. Weymer that Mr. Mendoza wanted his money returned and the case documentation did not make it clear the funds were Mendoza's.
  - b. Based on the confusion and quick review of the few facts available I determined a review of the various events that transpired in this incident will be required to determine what happened and how to resolve it.

**Facts:**

2. While helping Mr. Jackson to his feet, Detective Artola and Detective Mecocci believed they saw three (3) crumpled pieces of US currency, unknown denominations, on the ground that had not been removed from Mr. Jackson's person by either Detective.
3. Sergeant Franck observed Detectives Mecocci and Artola help Mr. Jackson to his feet and moved in to secure evidence of taser deployment from that spot. He did not observe any US currency.
4. At our headquarters, in the booking room, a property bin had been set up and some of Mr. Mendoza's property was placed in it. At some point Detective Slanovec moves the property bin to the sign-in sheet table, out of view of booking room camera 9 and leaves booking. Based on Detective Slanovec's memo he placed some of Mendoza's property in a bin. I reviewed camera footage and it is not clear who put what in which bin.
5. Detective Mecocci, in his memo, states he inventoried Jackson's property and discovered some of it in a bin with Mendoza's property. In trying to resolve the mixed bin of property Detective Mecocci inquired of Jackson how much money he had and Jackson replied, "a bunch." Mendoza was asked how much he had and he stated, "\$700." Detective Mecocci counted and discovered

\$670. Sergeant Magsamen was notified by Mecocci about the mix-up and Sergeant Magsamen determined the best, temporary, course of action was to voucher the currency separately from Mendoza and Jackson.

6. Copies of the Prisoner Personal Property Records for both Mendoza & Jackson were reviewed. Neither records for either defendant had money/currency listed. Mendoza refused to sign his property receipt prior to and after his stay. Jackson refused to sign prior to his stay, but did sign for his property when he left our custody.
7. A quick clarification from Mr. Jackson would have resolved the matter but he has been assigned a Legal Aid attorney, Rich Lentino, requiring his presence for questioning. Mr. Lentino was advised of the problem and he stated when he next speaks to Mr. Jackson he will inquire on our behalf but expressed doubt that Jackson would be forthcoming.
8. I performed an inspection of the currency that was submitted for safekeeping. I could not determine which, if any, of the currency may have been crumpled and on the ground.

Analysis:

9. Considering the fact that upon release from our custody Mr. Jackson acknowledged the receipt of his property without protest and by his signature, not making claim for any funds; and that Mr. Mendoza claims the secured funds are his; and that the secured funds are reasonably within thirty dollars of what Mr. Mendoza initially believed was in his possession; and then taking into consideration that as soon as Mr. Jackson was moved from the spot he was assisted from, Sergeant Franck moved in and recovered evidence and did not see any currency to collect; it is my belief that Detectives Artola and Mecocci may have mistaken what they perceived to be US currency.
10. The two Detectives, Mecocci & Artola, observed what appeared to be currency from a resisting and combative defendant and did not communicate their observation to the nearby supervisor or any other member of the service to investigate their observation further as they were focused on the defendant.
11. No one officer, detective or supervisor monitored the entire event as it took place on the scene or the securing of property in booking.

Remediation:

12. In July I directed Officer Weymer to make an appointment with Mr. Mendoza to complete an affidavit for the return of funds.
13. Detectives Slanovec, Artola & Mecocci were informally counseled on the importance of communications between themselves and responding officers in order to maintain accountability of property and evidence.

## CITY OF MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Memo

**To : Sergeant Doty**  
**From : Detective Mecocci**  
**Date : 06/21/2017**  
**Re : Case 3159-17**

On June 15, 2017, I along with several officers were attempting to locate and arrest Michael J. Jackson for the crimes of Assault 1 and Robbery 1. PO Beaudette and PO Harget located Jackson in the area of 203-211 North Street where he proceeded to flee from them on foot. After a foot pursuit, Detective Artola and I were able to place Jackson into custody. I then searched Jackson incident to a lawful arrest. I removed a NYS ID, credit card, lighter and headphones from Jackson's pockets which were placed on the ground next to him. Where Jackson fell, there was also loose bills of US currency on the ground. The currency was on the ground already and not removed from Jackson's person by officers. I then brought Jackson to his feet and escorted him to a marked patrol unit. Sergeant Franck secured the spent taser cartridge, darts and multiple afids from the scene. I then provided Sergeant Franck with an evidence bag and took custody of the property from Sergeant Franck. Jackson was transported to 370 by patrol.

While on scene, Jason Mendoza was arrested by Detective Slanovec regarding case 613-17. Mendoza was transported to 370 by patrol.

At 370, Jackson was booked and processed on the charges stemming from case 3130-17 as well as a new charge of PL 205.30. I completed a subject resistance form. The spent taser cartridge, wires, darts and afids were secured into evidence.

While inventorying Jackson's property before placing him in a cell, I observed a blue property bin which contained three cell phones, a lighter, headphones, and US currency. I knew some of the property to belong to Jackson and I showed him the contents of the bin to confirm it was his property. Jackson stated that two of the cell phones did not belong to him, but all of the other property was his property. I assumed Jackson did not want to claim possession of the cell phones due to possible drug related content being on the phones. I asked Jackson approximately how much money he had and he just stated a bunch. I then counted the money in front of Jackson which totaled \$670.00. PO Beaudette counted the money as well for confirmation. The above property was then secured in Jackson's property bag. The money consisted of a large wad of cash as well as multiple loose bills. Detective Artola then came to the booking area and advised that he believed the property inventoried was Mendoza's. I advised him that it contained property for Jackson but he claimed the two phones were not his. Mendoza then advised that the two phones that Jackson stated were not his, were Mendozas. It appears that during the booking process, Jackson's property was mixed with Mendoza's property in the same bin. When Mendoza was asked how much money he had in his possession, he stated \$700. I notified Sergeant Magsamen of the above. The money was then removed from Jackson's property bag and placed into safekeeping at 370. The original property receipts were attached to this report and Jackson was issued a new receipt which was signed off on by Sergeant Magsamen, Detective Artola and myself. Both Jackson and Mendoza were advised of the above and advised to bring proof of ownership to 370 to retrieve the money.

The NYS ID bearing the name, Orenzo L. Charles, and a Bank of America credit card, bearing the name Kateri Antonelli, which were recovered from Jackson, were also placed into safekeeping. Jackson claims to have found the items on the street. A Chicago Bulls hat in the booking room, which both Jackson and Mendoza denied ownership of, was also placed into safekeeping.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DET. MECOCCHI', written over a horizontal line.

**Detective Mecocci 1213**

**City of Middletown Police Department**

**MEMO**

TO: Detective Sergeant Mark Doty  
FROM: Sergeant David Franck  
DATE: June 21, 2017  
RE: Blotter #17-20128/Case #17-3159/Arrest #17-1634

As you requested I am submitting this memorandum in regards to the above mentioned case and arrest. I arrived in the driveway of #117 Wickham Ave. and drove to the back of the property. Upon my arrival, I observed Detectives Mecocci and Artola assisting Michael Jackson (the defendant), who was rear cuffed, to his feet. I observed the remnants of a taser cartridge deployment where the defendant was taken into custody. I secured the following items from the driveway directly where Jackson was placed into custody:

- taser cartridge
- taser probes
- taser wires
- taser AFIDS
- one identification card (unknown name)
- one bank/credit card (unknown name)

I secured the above items in a clear plastic evidence bag, that was provided by Detective Mecocci and then gave the same to Detective Mecocci.

At no time did I see, or handle any amount of U.S. currency at the scene of arrest.

Respectfully Submitted

*Sgt. D. Franck #1092*

Sergeant David Franck #1092

# Memo

To: Sgt. Doty  
From: Det. Slanovec  
Date: 06/15/2017 @ 3:06 PM  
Subject: Jason J Mendoza – Arrest – Case # 17-613

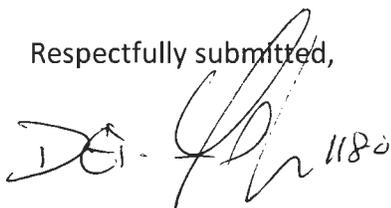
Sgt. Doty,

On the above date and time Detectives and members of Narcotics were engaged in a foot pursuit with Michael J Jackson (DOB [REDACTED] (Case # 17-3159). After Jackson was arrested Jason J Mendoza (DOB [REDACTED]) approached Detectives and began acting disorderly. Mendoza was then arrested for Assault 3<sup>rd</sup> (H) for an unrelated case that occurred on 02/01/2017 (Case # 17-613).

Once at 370 I placed two cell phones and money into an empty blue property container and then turned same over to Detective Artola. Mendoza was then booked and processed for Assault 3<sup>rd</sup> (H).

No further information to report at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DEI - [Signature] 1180'. The signature is stylized and includes the letters 'DEI' followed by a large, cursive flourish and the number '1180'.

Detective Fred Slanovec



# CITY OF MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

2 James street Middletown, NY 10940  
(845) 343-3151 FAX (845) 343-2660



## Memo

**Date: June 28, 2017**

**To: Sgt. Doty**

**From: Det. Artola**

**Re: Jason Mendoza**

ON 6/15/17 DET MECOCCI AND I PLACED MICHAEL JACKSON UNDER ARREST AND IN CUSTODY. AS WE DID SO, I OBSERVED TWO OR THREE BILLS CRUMBLED ON THE GROUND NEXT TO JACKSON. I COULD NOT TELL HOW MANY BILLS WERE IN EACH CRUMBLE BUT IT WAS NOT A LOT. I ALSO COULD NOT TELL THE DENOMINATIONS OF ANY OF THE BILLS. IN ADDITION TO THE BILLS, I ALSO REMEMBER THERE BEING AN ORENZO CHARLES ID CARD, A LIGHTER, AND EARBUDS. I ASSISTED DET MECOCCI PUT JACKSON IN A PATROL VEHICLE TO BE TRANSPORTED TO MPD. WHEN I TURNED AROUND I OBSERVED SGT FRANCK RECOVERING ITEMS FROM THE GROUND WHERE JACKSON HAD BEEN ARRESTED.

DURING THE BOOKING PROCESS OF JASON MENDOZA AND MICHAEL JACKSON, THEIR PROPERTIES GOT COMBINED IN A PROPERTY BIN AT THE BOOKING ROOM. I AM UNAWARE OF HOW THE PROPERTIES BECAME COMBINED. DET SLANOVEC HAD SHOWED ME MENDOZA'S PROPERTY BIN THAT WAS LOCATED NEXT TO THE SIGN IN SHEET. I ONLY OBSERVED SOME OF THE CONTENTS OF THE BIN, INCLUDING A FLIP PHONE, A CELL PHONE WITH A CRACKED SCREEN, AND CASH IN DIFFERENT PILES.

LATER ON DURING THE BOOKING PROCESS OF BOTH INDIVIDUALS, DET MECOCCI INFORMED ME THAT PROPERTY HE KNEW TO BE JACKSON'S WAS IN THE BIN THAT CONTAINED MENDOZA'S PROPERTY. DET MECOCCI ALSO ADVISED THAT ALL THE MONEY WAS COMBINED IN THE BIN AS WELL. AT THIS TIME NO ONE WAS ABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT MONEY BELONGED TO EACH INDIVIDUAL. MENDOZA STATED HE HAD \$700 AND JACKSON STATED HE HAD A "BUNCH OF CASH." THE MONEY RECOVERED, \$670, WAS PLACED INTO SAFEKEEPING.

I COMPLETED A PROPERTY RECEIPT FOR MENDOZA'S PROPERTY AND HE REFUSED TO SIGN IT BECAUSE THE MONEY ON THE RECEIPT WAS MISSING.

*Det Artola #1249*

DET ARTOLA #1249

Police Department  
City of Middletown, N.Y.

# PRISONER'S PERSONAL PROPERTY RECORD

ARREST NUMBER **1634-11**

NAME OF PRISONER  
**Jackson, Michael J.**

SEARCHING OFFICER (Signature)  
**DET. [Signature]**

CHARGE  
**ASSAULT 1 / ROB 1**

WITNESS  
**[Signature]**

DATE/TIME SEARCHED  
**6/15/17**

WITNESS  
**Sgt. [Signature] #1084**

CURRENCY \$	WALLET <input type="checkbox"/>	HEAD PHONES
COINS	RING <input type="checkbox"/>	(1) LG CELL PHONE W/ CRACKED SCREEN
CHECKS	KNIFE <input type="checkbox"/>	BEADS BRACELET
<del>RECOVERED CURRENCY PUT IN SAFEKEEPING</del>	KEYS <input type="checkbox"/>	LIGHTER
TOTAL \$ _____	WATCH <input type="checkbox"/>	

VEHICLE (CIRCLE) IMPOUNDED YES NO	STORED AT	LICENSE NUMBER	RELEASED TO	DATE RELEASED <b>1/1</b>
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I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE LIST IS A TRUE LIST OF MY PERSONAL PROPERTY REMOVED FROM MY POSSESSION AT THE TIME I WAS PLACED IN JAIL.

**X REFUSED** \_\_\_\_\_ **6/15/17** \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRISONER'S SIGNATURE) (DATE)

I HAVE RECEIVED ALL THE ABOVE ITEMS EXCEPT WITHDRAWALS AND CONTRA-BAND LISTED.

**X Michael Jackson** \_\_\_\_\_ **1/1** \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRISONER'S SIGNATURE) (DATE)

IF PRISONER IS UNABLE TO SIGN, THE ARRESTING OFFICER & TWO WITNESSES MUST SIGN FORM ABOVE.

ENVELOPE COPY

# PRISONER'S PERSONAL PROPERTY RECORD

NAME OF PRISONER <b>MENDOZA, JASON</b>		SEARCHING OFFICER <i>[Signature]</i>
CHARGE <b>ASSAULT 1</b>		WITNESS <i>[Signature]</i>
DATE/TIME SEARCHED <b>6/15/17 5:15 pm</b>		WITNESS <i>[Signature]</i> #1084

CURRENCY \$	WALLET <input type="checkbox"/>	2 CELL PHONES,
COINS	RING <input type="checkbox"/>	SHOELACES, STAMP,
CHECKS	KNIFE <input type="checkbox"/>	PAPERWORK
	KEYS <input type="checkbox"/>	
TOTAL \$	WATCH <input type="checkbox"/>	

VEHICLE IMPOUNDED YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	(CIRCLE)	STORED AT	LICENSE NUMBER	RELEASED TO	DATE RELEASED / /
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I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE LIST IS A TRUE LIST OF MY PERSONAL PROPERTY REMOVED FROM MY POSSESSION AT THE TIME I WAS PLACED IN JAIL.

**X** REFUSED / /  
(PRISONER'S SIGNATURE) (DATE)

I HAVE RECEIVED ALL THE ABOVE ITEMS EXCEPT WITHDRAWALS AND CONTRA-BAND LISTED.

**X** Refused / /  
(PRISONER'S SIGNATURE) (DATE)

IF PRISONER IS UNABLE TO SIGN, THE ARRESTING OFFICER & TWO WITNESSES MUST SIGN FORM ABOVE

ENVELOPE COPY