

## **Charges laid in string of thefts from cell phone retailers**

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The Strathmore RCMP have laid 34 charges in a series of thefts from cell phone stores around the Calgary area. Through surveillance photos and forensic evidence, RCMP have identified and charged 6 individuals who are alleged to be responsible for five offences targeting cell phone retailers.

On December 27, 2017, Okotoks RCMP responded to an assault at The Source on Southridge Drive in Okotoks. Three black males had entered the store and when spoken to by an employee, one of the males assaulted the employee then all three fled.

On January 11, 2018, Strathmore RCMP were called to a report of cell phones being stolen from a local Telus store. Four black males had entered the store and stole four cell phones then fled on foot.

On January 19, 2018, another theft took place in Olds. Five males entered a wireless store on 46 Street and stole cell phones which were on display before fleeing the area.

On February 5, High River RCMP responded to an attempted theft at Foothills Mobility on Centre Street in High River. In this instance, six black males attempted to force entry to the business. After being unable to gain entry due to locked doors, the males fled on foot. A short time later, Strathmore RCMP were called to the Bell mobility store on 3 Avenue. Five black males attempted to enter the store and, finding the doors locked, attempted to force entry by kicking the glass doors. The suspects fled to a waiting vehicle and departed the area.

Thanks to information provided by witnesses, Strathmore RCMP located the vehicle and arrested six male suspects.

Kareeba JOSEPH (19) of Calgary, Rauch BANG (19) of Calgary and four male youths now face a total of 34 offences including theft, wearing a disguise with intent to commit an indictable offence and failing to comply with a recognizance.

Kareeba JOSEPH has been released from custody and is scheduled to make his next appearance on February 20th, 2018 in Strathmore Provincial court and March 2nd, 2018 in Okotoks Provincial Court.

Rauch BANG has been released from custody and is scheduled to make his next court appearance on March 20th, 2018 in Strathmore Provincial Court and March 23rd, 2018 in Okotoks Provincial Court.

The four youths, who cannot be named, have been released from custody with appearance dates on February 20th, 2018 in Strathmore Provincial Court and February 23rd, 2018 in Okotoks Provincial Court.

“These arrests are an excellent example of the public working with us to reduce crimes,” says Strathmore RCMP Corporal Jay Salmon. “By locking the doors of these businesses, employees were able to prevent further crimes from taking place. Furthermore, information sharing between businesses and police agencies was vital in identifying and arresting these individuals. We are very grateful for the public’s assistance with these investigations.”

RCMP are continuing to investigate and additional charges are possible. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Strathmore RCMP at 403-934-3535.

If you have information about this, or any other crime(s), and you want to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers by phone at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), by internet at [www.tipsubmit.com/](http://www.tipsubmit.com/), or by SMS (check your local Crime Stoppers [[www.crimestoppers.ab.ca/](http://www.crimestoppers.ab.ca/)] for instructions on how to do it.) You do not have to reveal your identity to Crime Stoppers, and if you provide information to Crime Stoppers that leads to an arrest(s), the recovery of stolen property, and/or a seizure of illicit drugs, you may be eligible for a cash reward.