UPDATE- Two Arrested in Former Church Building Theft Investigation

HAMMOND (*October 12, 2026*)- The Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office (TPSO) has arrested two suspects in connection with a large-scale theft from a vacant church property back in May.

Samuel Cutrer, 47, has been booked into the Tangipahoa Parish Jail on one count of Felony Theft (over $25,000).

Robert Magee, 45, is currently being held in the St. Helena Parish Jail as a fugitive from TPSO on the same count. His transfer is pending unrelated charges out of St. Helena Parish.

On May 6, it was discovered that copper tubing as well as condensers and parts from multiple A/C units were missing from the property of the former Harvest Church building located in the 17000 block of north I-12 Service Road in Hammond. The repairs for the damage and replacement of the parts exceeded $100,000.

Surveillance video released to the public on May 14th showed two suspects committing the theft. Shortly after, tips helped TPSO detectives identify Cutrer and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

On September 24, Cutrer was located and arrested on the outstanding warrant connected to this case as well as almost a dozen other unrelated charges.

As the investigation continued, the second suspect was identified as Magee, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. It was then learned he was already in custody at the St. Helena Parish Jail in an unrelated case.

This is Magee's fourth copper theft-related arrest in Tangipahoa Parish in the past six months. Investigators are continuing to look into Magee's possible involvement in other outstanding copper theft-related cases both in and out of Tangipahoa Parish.

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