

# ORMOND BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Robert J. Godfrey, Chief of Police

## News Release

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Crime Stoppers of Volusia & Flagler Counties 1-888-277-TIPS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



On December 22, 2019, OBPD officers responded to a disturbance at Brookdale Assisted Living Facility, 550 Wilmette Avenue, Ormond Beach. Once officers arrived and started their investigation, it was learned that Russell Bannister (pictured), entered an elderly resident's room without consent or knowledge and stole the resident's cash and credit cards. Bannister's presence, in the victim's room, was detected by an Amazon Alexa device which alerted a family member. The family member responded to the facility and confronted Bannister, who was still in the victim's room. Bannister initially fled on foot but was quickly contacted by the police and arrested.

During the subsequent investigation, OBPD has identified additional victims, who reside at different Assisted Living Facilities in Ormond Beach. It is believed that Bannister has done this in other areas of the County and we are asking that family members please reach out to any loved ones who are staying in assisted living facilities in the area to ensure they have not been victimized by Bannister.

All three of the victims who were identified by the Ormond Beach Police Department were 90 years of age or older. If you suspect your loved one was victimized by Bannister, please contact Sergeant Tom Larsen by phone, 386-676-3520, or email, [tom.larsen@ormondbeach.org](mailto:tom.larsen@ormondbeach.org).

Released by: Officer Keith Walker, Public Information Officer

Date Released: January 3, 2019