What's in a Name—

On the evening of June 17th, an Owatonna officer stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation. While speaking with the operator, the officer noted the passenger avoided making eye contact with him. During his previous shift, this same officer had been looking through the MN Department of Corrections (DOC) website and at their most wanted fugitives, specifically Louis Bennett. The officer was familiar with Bennett and believed the passenger was him. When he asked for the passenger’s name, the passenger told him he was John Smith. The officer returned to his vehicle and compared a DOC photograph of Bennett with the passenger alleging to be John Smith—they appeared identical. The officer also found the passenger had tattoos similar to those described for Bennett on the DOC website. Undeterred by the passenger’s claims, the officer placed the passenger under arrest for giving a false name and for the outstanding warrants. Once at jail, the passenger admitted his real identify—he knew he had warrants and tried to avoid detection by using John Smith’s name. Bennett indicated he had another encounter with an officer a few weeks ago and was able to avoid detection by using Smith’s name. In addition to the warrants, Louis Bennett was formally charged with Giving a False Name to a Police Officer—a gross misdemeanor.

Suspected Car Prowler Arrested—

During the early evening hours on June 17th, Owatonna officers were called to an Owatonna residence over concerns from Facebook messaging. The messaging was purportedly sent by Cody Luchi and talked about car and garage shopping. Later that night, officers were called to the area of the 200 block of E. Phelps Ave. for suspicious person(s) in the alley. An officer observed three persons in the alley; when he told them to stop, one of them fled from the area. Another officer in the area observed a lone figure carrying a backpack, wearing a t-shirt and flat brimmed hat walking in and out between houses in the 200 block of E. Vine St.—the officer felt the individual was trying to evade him. The officer finally caught up to the individual and observed him sweating profusely while trying to put on a sweatshirt. The officer checked the area and found a backpack and a flat brimmed cap in some foliage near where he was apprehended. Inside the back-pack, officers found a small amount of marijuana & drug paraphernalia, $43.26 in loose change, a foldable slim-jim (a tool commonly used to unlock vehicle doors from the outside) and several other items, including several wallets and women’s style coin purses. The male was identified as Cody Luchi and arrested—he was formally charged with Possessing Burglary/Theft Tools—a felony, Fleeing a Police Officer on Foot and Possessing a Small Amount of Marijuana.

The Age of Deception Continues...

During the early morning hours on Sunday, an officer was patrolling the area near the Dog Pound Bar when he encountered a male resembling an individual with a warrant. The officer met with the male who identified himself by writing his name and date of birth on a piece of paper. The officer then asked the male how old he was; however, the age given did not mathematically equate to the date of birth given. A check of the subject’s physical features also showed a discrepancy with what was on electronic file with the State of Minnesota. Again, undeterred by the male’s claims, he was arrested for the warrant and for giving a false name to the police. When booking the male in at the jail, he had in his possession a Viracon ID card that confirmed his real identity. Mohamed A. Mohamed, age 21, was charged with Giving a False name to a Police Officer—a gross misdemeanor.