



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **State Inmate Escapes from Harrison County Community Work Center**

Jackson, Miss. - A state inmate escaped late Tuesday evening from the Harrison County Community Work Center in Gulfport, Miss. Authorities there are searching today for offender Vandy Jerome Johnston, a 23-year old white male.

According to MDOC officials, Johnston was present at a 9 p.m. formal head-count conducted at the center Tuesday evening. He was discovered missing an hour later by officials at a 10 p.m. head-count. Corrections officials notified local law enforcement authorities of the escape.

MDOC officials received word early today that the Louisiana State Police had recovered a blue and white Crown Victoria patrol car owned by the City of Gulfport Police Department abandoned near Kenner, LA. Louisiana law enforcement authorities advised that the police vehicle was unharmed and out of gas. The keys were still in the stolen vehicle's ignition.

Inmate Johnston, who worked on city vehicles at the garage, had access to vehicle keys being serviced at the garage according to Harrison County corrections officials. The maintenance facility is located adjacent to the community work center. A warrant has been issued for Johnston's arrest charging him with escape and vehicle theft.

Johnston, who is serving a seven-year sentence for burglary from Adams County, was last seen wearing MDOC green and white striped pants and a white shirt with **MDOC Convict** printed on the back. Johnston is not considered to be dangerous. Anyone with any information or sightings of Johnston should contact local law enforcement.

### **Description of Escapee:**

Vandy Jerome Johnston  
MDOC #R6831B  
White Male  
5'8"  
158 lbs.  
Blue eyes  
Blonde hair

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