



Beloved Family Dog Safely Returned After Warren Police Investigation Leads to Arrest

The Warren Police Department is pleased to announce the safe recovery and return of Diesel, a beloved family pet, following a swift and diligent investigation by the Detective Bureau. Lemarzay Tolbert, a 21-year-old resident of Warren, has been charged for his involvement in the incident.

The investigation began after a black and white Alaskan Klee-Kai named Diesel ran away from a residence near the 21000 block of Waltham on 04/25/2026. The family turned to social media to share photos of the dog in hopes of a safe return. However, the post quickly resulted in the family receiving messages demanding money for the dog's safe return. On 04/29/2026, the family was contacted by a male claiming to have purchased Diesel from an unknown person and demanding a cash payment for his return.

Detectives utilized investigative techniques to trace the communication back to a phone number associated with Tolbert. Upon arriving at Tolbert's Warren residence, investigators heard barking and positively identified Diesel through the front door. Although Tolbert acknowledged that he knew the dog belonged to another family, he refused to surrender the animal and became uncooperative. Investigators eventually took Tolbert into custody after he was observed leaving the residence. A second individual at the home subsequently cooperated with officers and surrendered Diesel, who was then reunited with his family.

On 05/02/2026, the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office reviewed the case and charged Tolbert with one count of receiving and concealing stolen property valued at \$200 - \$1,000 (1-year misdemeanor). Tolbert was given a \$1,000 cash/surety bond. His next court date is to be scheduled. While Tolbert has no significant criminal history, investigators are continuing to analyze digital forensics to determine the full scope of the incident.

"It is truly disheartening that someone would attempt to exploit a family's distress for financial gain, but I am proud of our investigators for seeing through the deception and ensuring Diesel was returned home safely," said Police Commissioner Eric Hawkins. "The swift actions of our Detective Bureau demonstrate our commitment to the safety and well-being of all our residents, including our four-legged ones. We want to remind our citizens that while social media is a powerful tool for finding lost pets, it also attracts those looking to take advantage of others. Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious demands to law enforcement immediately."



Lemarzay Tolbert, booking photo

**For further information, please contact Warren Police Commissioner
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