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## Scofflaws two fingers away from arrest

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By **CYNTHIA ROLDAN**  
*Palm Beach Post Staff Writer*

Posted: 6:03 p.m. Sunday, May 20, 2012

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**PALM BEACH GARDENS** — Enforcing the law can be difficult when people lie about their identities.

But the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department has acquired a tool that helps officers such as Jeffrey Main identify people on the spot.

It's called Rapid ID, a wireless fingerprint-identification scanner that allows law-enforcement officers to scan a person's index and middle fingers. The system, which is connected to a Florida Department of Law Enforcement database, then searches for a record.

Such technology is vital in the field, where people with outstanding warrants do not want to be identified, Main said.

"People give us fake names," Main said. "This is going to defeat that."

He stressed, however, that citizens won't be fingerprinted as long as they properly identify themselves to police officers.

"We have to have a legal reason to use it," Main said. "We can't just stop you on the streets and say, 'let me take your fingerprints.'"

Main is one of two Palm Beach Gardens police officers who has worked with the Rapid ID system for the past year.

But with the help of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation, Cross Match Technologies, the Palm Beach Gardens-based maker of the scanners, donated two of the scanners, which cost about \$2,500 apiece, and the department bought two more.

Now the department will have a scanner to cover each of its six shifts.

Palm Beach Gardens isn't the only agency using the technology. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has had 34 scanners in service for the past year, and recently ordered more than 170 for additional road patrol deputies.

According to a sheriff's report, a deputy in suburban Boca Raton identified a man just last week who was driving a stolen vehicle.

Although the driver presented a driver license that identified him as "Brandon Karimi," one deputy suspected that he wasn't being truthful.

A scan of his fingerprints revealed that the man's actual name was Brandon Darimy, and that he had gotten hold of a different driver license with a different Social Security number.

The 24-year-old was arrested on multiple drug-related charges and grand theft of a motor vehicle.

Still other departments, such as the Boynton Beach police and Florida Highway Patrol, are using a different version of the Rapid ID system.

That version is not wireless and must be attached to a laptop.

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