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\$115K Worth of Rare Pokémon Cards Stolen in New Bedford

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— Categories: *Crime*



A collectible shop in downtown New Bedford, Massachusetts, reported that approximately \$113,650 worth of rare Pokémon trading cards and sealed booster boxes were stolen in a smash-and-grab burglary early Tuesday morning. Authorities are investigating, but no arrests have been made.

Surveillance footage reviewed by police shows a masked individual breaking the glass door of 1st Edition Collectibles on Purchase Street around 2:30 a.m. and grabbing rare Pokémon

cards, including graded Charizards and sealed booster boxes, before fleeing in about 30 seconds; stolen inventory is valued at \$113,650.

Co-owner Felipe Andre told reporters the theft appeared premeditated and targeted specific items; he said the person was in and out within 20 seconds. Police confirmed the suspect breached a locked gate and smashed a back door to enter the store.

1st Edition Collectibles, which opened four years ago as a passion project by Andre and his partners, has temporarily closed to assess the damage and regroup. The owners issued a statement thanking the local community for its support and vigilance, urging anyone who comes across the stolen items to report them. “We appreciate that the community support truly means a lot to see people come together to spread awareness,” the statement read.

The shop’s losses are significant, not only in monetary value but in the years of hard work and dedication invested in building a reputable business. Andre made a heartfelt appeal to the thief, encouraging the return of the items without legal repercussions. “If you’re watching, you can return our stuff, no questions asked,” he said. “We want our collection back. It’s the result of four years of hard work.”

New Bedford police confirmed the investigation is ongoing but have yet to make any arrests. They continue to review surveillance footage and are urging anyone with information to come forward. Meanwhile, the incident underscores a troubling rise in targeted property crimes, especially those involving high-value collectibles.

This event serves as a reminder of the challenges small business owners face, particularly in specialized markets like collectibles. The disruption caused by such criminal acts extends beyond financial loss; it shakes the foundation of trust and security essential for businesses to thrive.

In the broader context, while law enforcement is working on solving this case, the incident highlights ongoing concerns about crime rates and public safety. Responsible policies that support law enforcement efforts and protect small businesses are crucial to preventing similar crimes in the future.

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