



For Immediate Release: March 12, 2009

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Cutline: Officer Robert Pemberton and K-9 Ceiko with 125.9 pounds of marijuana seized during a traffic stop on Interstate 30

THREE ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA AND ENGAGING IN ORGANIZED CRIME

Three people were arrested and charged with Engaging in Organized Crime and Possession of Marijuana after a traffic stop on Interstate 30.

On March 10, 2009, at approximately 9 p.m., Greenville Police Officer Robert Pemberton observed two vehicles traveling together eastbound on Interstate 30. The first vehicle was a 2008 Chevrolet Malibu with Indiana license plates. The second vehicle was a 1998 Lincoln with West Virginia license plates.

As Officer Pemberton began to pull over the first car for a speeding violation, the second vehicle began speeding and driving aggressively. Officer Pemberton requested that a BOLO (be on lookout) be issued for the Lincoln.

Officer Pemberton contacted the driver of the Chevrolet identified as Sandra Monday, a 47-year old white female, with a West Virginia driver's license, and notified her of the reason for the stop. Officer Pemberton asked Monday if she was traveling with the Lincoln with the West Virginia plates and Monday told Pemberton that she was not. While Pemberton was in his patrol vehicle running Monday's information, he observed her talking on a cell phone. He asked her to hang up the phone. Monday told Officer Pemberton that she had traveled from West Virginia to Dallas to see her son. The Chevrolet she was driving had been rented in Arkansas. When asked why she had not flown directly into Dallas, Monday responded that she had flown into Arkansas because that was where she had rented the car.

Officer Pemberton asked Monday if she was traveling with any contraband. She said no and Pemberton asked for consent to search the vehicle. Monday gave consent for the search. Once a back up unit arrived and Monday again gave consent for the search, Officer Pemberton discovered two duffle bags in the trunk of the vehicle that contained several cellophane wrapped bundles of what was believed to be marijuana. Ms. Monday was taken into custody.

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Officer Pemberton was then contacted by a deputy with the Hopkins County Sheriff's Department who had stopped the Lincoln at the 122 mile marker of eastbound Interstate 30. The deputy identified the two suspects in the vehicle as Craige Jerome Preston, a 37-year old black male, and Michael Anthony Halliburton, a 33-year old black male, both with Michigan driver's licenses.

Officer Pemberton asked the deputy if either of the suspects had a cell phone and the deputy indicated that the driver had two phones. Officer Pemberton asked the deputy to let him know if one of the phones began to ring. Officer Pemberton then used Monday's phone and dialed the last number she had called and the deputy confirmed that one of the phones was ringing. Officer Pemberton asked the deputy to answer the call to assure that it was the call he was making and make an affirmative link to the two vehicles. Officer Pemberton then asked the deputy to take the two suspects into custody.

All three suspects were arrested. The 1998 Lincoln, \$4,120 in cash, the cell phones and two laptop computers were seized along with the marijuana. It was also discovered that the Lincoln involved in this incident had been previously seized in Hopkins County and the owner, Craige Preston, had been arrested for felony possession of cocaine less than a year ago.

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