

P.O. BOX 10070 - BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

| From: | Denise M. Moloney |
|-------|---|
| | Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609 |
| Re: | Traffic Stop Turns Drug Bust – 2020-3821 |

Date: February 3, 2020

On 02-02-20 just before 7:30 p.m., Deputy Trevor Jones conducted a Traffic Stop on a grey Ford Escape in the parking lot of the Winn Dixie plaza located at 6270 Commercial Way in Weeki Wachee (US-19 and Cortez Boulevard).

Deputy Jones had been dispatched to BOLO (be on the lookout) for the grey Ford Escape, as a complaint had been received regarding the driver operating said vehicle in a reckless manner. The caller reported the driver swerving in and out of traffic and hitting a mailbox in the area of Northcliffe Boulevard and Deltona Boulevard. The vehicle was last known to be travelling westbound on Northcliffe Boulevard.

Deputy Jones approached the vehicle and made contact with the driver who was the sole occupant of the vehicle. The driver identified himself as Semi Dudochkin.

Dudochkin appeared nervous. He was shaking and avoiding eye contact with the deputy. When asked for his driver's license, Dudochkin handed the deputy his bank card then quickly looked away. Deputy Jones asked again for Dudochkin's driver's license. Dudochkin nervously laughed and said "sorry" before producing his license.

During this exchange, Deputy Jones detected a strong odor of marijuana emitting from Dudochkin's vehicle. When asked if he possessed a medical marijuana card, Dudochkin said, "no." When asked if there were any illegal substances in the vehicle, Dudochkin again said, "No."

Dudochkin was asked to exit his vehicle so a search could be conducted. Once out of the vehicle, Dudochkin told Deputy Jones he had some marijuana and MDMA pills in the backseat. Dudochkin also stated that "everything in the car was for personal use."

Upon searching the vehicle, deputies located a black nylon briefcase with multiple zippered compartments. Inside the briefcase, deputies located seven clear baggies, each of which contained a green leafy substance, an orange pill bottle containing blue pills, a clear baggie containing green pills, a clear baggie containing yellow pills, wax paper containing a yellow wax-like substance, 13 Rove vape packages, a yellow cup containing loose marijuana, and a digital scale.

The green leafy substance tested positive for the presence of THC. The green pills and yellow pills were found to be MDMA and field tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine. The 79 blue pills were found to be Clonazepam, 1mg. The yellow wax-like substance also field tested positive for the presence of THC.

The 13 Rove vape packages were marked with a GOVERNMENT WARNING: THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS CANNABI, A SCHEDULE 1 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE. Each was field tested, which revealed a positive presence of THC.

Observation of the digital scale revealed a yellow residue on it. The residue, which was consistent with the yellow wax-like substance, field tested positive for the presence of THC.

On Dudochkin's person, deputies located \$5,135 is U.S. currency. Deputy Jones asked Dudochkin if he is currently employed, to which he stated, "No."

The total weight of the marijuana was 224.6 grams (without the packaging). The combined weight of the Rove vials was 185.9 grams. The yellow wax-like substance weighed 2.7 grams. The 79 Clonazepam had a total weight of 13.5 grams. The green MDMA pills weighed 12.0 grams. The yellow MDMA pills weighed 4.1 grams.

Semi Khatimovich Dudochkin DOB/01-08-2001 was issued citations for the traffic infractions and charged as follows for the illegal narcotics:

- Trafficking in Methamphetamine
- Possession of Marijuana w/Intent to Sell
- Possession of Hashish (2 counts)
- Possession of Controlled Substance
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Bond \$62,000.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and remains accountable to them.