

PRESS RELEASE

CITIZEN'S TIP LEADS TO DRUG ARREST

On Friday June 4th, Beverly Police Detectives arrested two drug dealers after receiving a tip from a concerned citizen. Beverly Detectives were contacted by a resident of Old Essex Road who reported seeing suspicious vehicles parking on the side of the road for a short time during the evening then leave the area. The resident stated that a white car would arrive first and the male driver would exit talking on his cell phone. A short time later a green minivan would arrive and the male driver of the first car would enter the minivan and they would drive only two or three house lengths down the street. The male party would then quickly exit the minivan and return to his car and both vehicles would drive from the area. The resident also stated that when the male party would exit the minivan it always appeared that he was holding something in his hand (and not his cell phone). The resident reported seeing these individuals meet at least 6 or 7 times and was able to obtain the license plate of the white vehicle. Detectives then decided to set up surveillance on Old Essex Road as they believed possible drug activity was taking place.

On Friday evening Beverly Detectives Sgt. Michael Cassola and Thomas Nolan along with Gloucester Detective Sean Connors and Wenham Detective Sgt. Mark Fraser set up surveillance on Old Essex Road and were successful in their operation. Not long after arriving in the area, Detectives spotted the white vehicle, a 2002 Chevy Cavalier being driven by the registered owner, Jeffery J. King, DOB 7-24-78, of 7 Warner Street Gloucester MA. The Chevy parked on the side of the road and King exited the vehicle talking on his cell phone. Moments later, a green Honda Odyssey minivan with Rhode Island plates arrived and picked up King. The minivan drove approximately 50 yards down the street then stopped. King exited the minivan and began walking back to his vehicle. He also appeared to be clenching something in his hand. Detectives moved in and as they did so, King quickly threw something on the ground. Recovered off the ground

were three small clear plastic bags containing a brown powdery substance believed to be Heroin, with a street value of approximately \$300.00. King was placed under arrest and informed Detectives that he had just purchased the drugs from the male party in the minivan. The minivan was then stopped a short distance from Old Essex Road and the operator, Joe I Ortiz, DOB 1-1-69, of Cranston Rhode Island, was also placed under arrest and charged with Distribution of Class A, Heroin and Conspiracy to Violate Drug Laws. Seized from Ortiz was \$722.00 in cash and two cell phones, which rang continuously. King is being charged with Possession with Intent to Distribute Class A, Subsequent Offense, and Conspiracy to Violate Drug Laws. Seized from King was \$140.00 and one cell phone.