

DELAWARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Thomas E. Mills
Sheriff



Craig S. DuMond
Undersheriff

Press Release

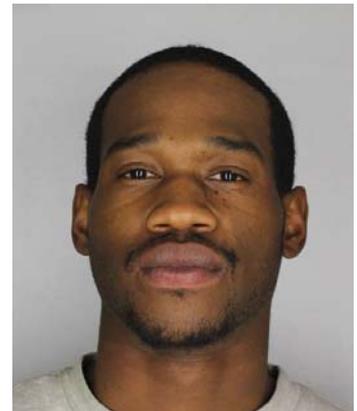
November 9, 2016

On Tuesday evening, November 8, Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies arrested two New York City men on felony marihuana possession charges following a traffic stop on State Highway 17 in the Town of Hancock.

Deputies observed and subsequently stopped a speeding, west bound vehicle operated by 20 year old Messiah J. Ortiz of New York City. Upon approaching the vehicle the Deputy noted a marihuana odor emanating from the vehicle's interior. Further investigation and a search of the vehicle and its occupants by Deputies led to the seizure of approximately one pound of marihuana and over \$2500 cash after Sheriff's Office' narcotics detection K-9 "Ozzie" alerted on the odor of narcotics emanating from the cash.



Deputies and investigators subsequently arrested and charged Ortiz and his 26 year old passenger, Michael A. Lewis, also of New York City, with Criminal Possession of Marihuana in the Third Degree, a class E felony.



Investigation revealed that Ortiz and Lewis were traveling from New York City to Tompkins Cortland Community College in Dryden, NY, where they had intended to sell the marihuana.

Deputies were assisted at the scene by members of the New York State Police at Deposit.

Ortiz and Lewis were arraigned in the Town of Delhi Court where they were remanded to the Delaware County Correctional Facility in lieu of \$15,000 cash/\$30,000 secured bond.

Delaware County Undersheriff Craig DuMond remarked, “Sheriff Mills and I are extremely proud of Deputy Kyle Karcher’s diligence and commitment to traffic enforcement and drug interdictions. This traffic stop and marihuana seizure serves as a reminder that significant quantities drugs are being transported over our County’s highways every day. We are proud of the vigilance and determination of our Deputies’ to disrupt the daily flow of drugs into our communities and their removal of these drugs and dealers from our streets through their continued aggressive highway safety and traffic enforcement”.

