Gun & Drugs Found in Car’s Hidden Compartment

Newark – Sheriff’s detectives last night discovered a semi-automatic handgun and drugs stashed in a hidden compartment of a car whose occupants were previously arrested on narcotics trafficking charges.
Sheriff Armando Fontoura stated that detectives from the Bureau of Narcotics pulled over and arrested John Howlett, age 30, and his passenger, Rahman Tisdale, age 20, near the intersection of 16th Avenue and South 8th Street after observing alleged drug sales in the neighborhood.

When the BON officers pulled the beige 2007 Ford Taurus over 20 decks of heroin were in plain view.

A search warrant was issued for the vehicle and Detective Dean Galluchio and K-9 “Woody” conducted an olfactory search of the car. A hidden compartment which contained a 9mm Lorcin handgun, fully loaded with illegal hollow point bullets, and an additional quantity of heroin and cocaine was discovered behind the car’s radio.

Howlett and Tisdale were both charged with the unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon while committing a CDS crime, possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, possession of a prohibited device (hollow point bullets), possession of CDS, possession of CDS with intent to distribute, possession of CDS with intent to distribute within 1000 feet of Chad Science Academy and conspiracy to violate New Jersey’s narcotics laws.

Newark municipal court Judge Marilyn E. Williams ordered the suspects held at the Essex County Correctional Facility on $100,000 cash bond. The suspects are scheduled to be arraigned on the charges on Friday.