

## Sheriff's Officers Arrest Drug Suspect in Bloomfield

Bloomfield – An Essex County sheriff's officer executed a motor vehicle stop this morning that resulted in drug and burglary charges being leveled against a Newark man.

Sheriff Armando Fontoura stated that Officer Daniel Graffeo was on patrol in the area of Watessing Park when he pulled over a 2002 Ford Taurus for an obstructed windshield violation and an expired inspection sticker.

When the driver of the vehicle, Charles Malone, age 29, of Newark could not produce a valid driver's license Officer Graffeo conducted a criminal background check and found that Malone was wanted by the Essex County Sheriff's Office for violating the terms of his probation and that he was wanted by Morris County authorities on multiple drug charges.

Sheriff Fontoura said that as the officer conducted the records check Malone bolted from his vehicle and fled from the scene.

With Graffeo in pursuit, Malone discarded his black hooded sweatshirt as he ran through backyards and over fences. The sweatshirt contained 3 bags of marijuana and 25 Ecstasy tablets.

The sheriff said that K-9 "Bandit", a bloodhound, was immediately dispatched to the scene. "Bandit" led sheriff's officers to an address on Maolis Street where the resident allowed the officers to enter.

Malone was found hiding under the basement stairs and was taken into custody without further incident.

As a result of today's incident, the suspect was charged with 2 counts of possession of CDS, 2 counts of possession of CDS with intent to distribute and one count each of possession of CDS with intent to distribute within 1000 feet of Watessing School, possession of CDS with intent to distribute within 500 feet of Watessing Park, burglary and resisting arrest.

Following questioning at the sheriff's Patrol Division headquarters Malone was lodged at the Essex County Correctional Facility where he awaits arraignment on today's charges.