

Suspect Arrested for Aggravated Assault on Sheriff's Officer

Newark ‐ A Cranford man was arrested last night and charged with aggravated assault on a sheriff's officer.

Sheriff Armando Fontoura stated that Officer Jimmy Rodriguez was on routine quality of life patrol at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday near the intersection of Badger and Hawthorne Avenues when he observed a silver 2002 Saab make a left turn without signaling.

Rodriguez attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop at West Runyon Street and Irvine Turner Boulevard. As the officer approached the Saab, he observed the driver insert glassine envelopes, the type used to package heroin, into his mouth. At this point, the driver of the suspect vehicle accelerated away from the scene at a high rate of speed and Rodriguez was struck by the Saab, causing a minor injury to the officers right elbow.

Sheriff Fontoura said that Rodriguez ran the vehicle's license plate and learned that it was owned by Dylan O'Malley, age 20, of Cranford. The sheriff's department issued an alert to be on the lookout for the Saab.

Twenty minutes later, Cranford police stopped the Saab on Elizabeth Avenue just of exit 137 of the Garden State Parkway. Sheriff's officer Rodriguez arrived on the scene a few minutes later and positively identified O'Malley.

Rodriguez took O'Malley into custody and the suspect was charged with aggravated assault on a police officer, the unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes, eluding and reckless driving.

O'Malley was transported to and released from East Orange General Hospital following a medical examination for the possible ingestion of heroin.

Judge Victoria Pratt set bail at \$30,000 cash bond only and O'Malley was lodged at the county jail where he awaits a court date on January 31st.