Arrest Yields Gun, Heroin, Cocaine, Marijuana & Xanax

Newark – An armed suspect who admitted to Essex County sheriff’s officers that he was high on drugs was arrested last night and charged with weapons and narcotics offenses.

Sheriff Armando Fontoura stated that officers from his department were on quality of life patrol in the area of Branch Brook Park at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday when they observed a 2009 Volkswagen Jetta traveling at a high rate of speed and weaving back and forth across a double yellow center line on Lake Street.
The sheriff’s officers activated the overhead lights and siren of their marked vehicle and pulled the suspect vehicle over at the intersection of 2nd Avenue and Lake Street.

Sheriff Fontoura said that when the driver of the suspect car, later identified as Zakeer Roberts, age 23, of East Orange, rolled down his window the officers immediately detected the pungent odor of burnt marijuana.

Roberts was ordered out of his car and he could not produce any personal or vehicular identification. The suspect then provided the sheriff’s officers with a false name and date of birth. Roberts also admitted that he had recently smoked marijuana and had ingested Xanax.

Fontoura added that as one of the officers began to search the suspect vehicle Roberts attempted to re-enter the Jetta but was restrained. A fully loaded and defaced, .45 caliber, Smith and Wesson semi-automatic handgun and a plastic bag, containing 53 decks of heroin, stamped “GOAT” in green ink, 14 grams of cocaine, 2 grams of marijuana and a Xanax tablet, were discovered under the front passenger seat of the car.

Roberts was charged with possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes, the
unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a defaced weapon, possession of a weapon in a motor vehicle, four counts of possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of CDS with intent to distribute, possession of CDS with intent to distribute within 1000 feet of Branch Brook Elementary School, possession of CDS with intent to distribute within 500 feet of Branch Brook Park and hindering apprehension by providing false information.

Roberts was also issued motor vehicle summonses for failure to maintain lane, driving with a suspended driver’s license and possession of CDS in a motor vehicle.

Roberts was also found to be the subject of open warrants issued by the municipal courts of Newark, Howell Township, Tinton Falls and Wall Township.

Judge Marvin Adames set bail on Roberts at $75,000 and he was lodged at the county jail where he awaits arraignment on last night’s charges later this week.