Suspect Arraigned on Gun and Drug Charges

Newark – A suspect was arraigned today on weapons and drug charges following his arrest yesterday afternoon by Essex County sheriff's officers.

Sheriff Armando Fontoura stated that officers from his department's Patrol Division were conducting quality of life operations in the area of Woodland Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon when the observed a black Chevrolet Impala parked and blocking traffic flow in the middle of the intersection at South 14 Street and Avon Avenue.

As Officers Chris Bozios and Dennis Kihlberg attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop, the Impala's front seat passenger, later identified as Kayron Lee, age 24 of Newark, quickly exited the vehicle, pulled a handgun from his waistband and ran from the scene.

Sheriff Fontoura said that Off. Bozios pursued Lee on foot while Off. Kihlberg drove his marked cruiser ahead of the suspect in order to cut off any means of escape.

During the foot chase, Lee stopped, raised his weapon and aimed it at Off. Bozios who took cover behind a parked car.

"Bozios also had his service weapon drawn," noted Fontoura, "but exercised good judgment in not firing as there were bystanders in the area."

Kihlberg successfully blocked the escape route and ordered Lee to drop his weapon. At this point. Lee complied with the officer's order and was placed under arrest.

Recovered at the scene was a fully loaded, .45 caliber, Para Ordinance semi-automatic handgun. A patdown search of Lee yielded four vials of 'crack' cocaine in his pants pocket.

Lee was charged with the unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes, possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest and possession of a controlled dangerous substance.

Lee was also found to be the subject of an open warrant issued by the Clifton Municipal Court for shoplifting.

At today's arraignment. Judge Marilyn Williams ordered Lee held at the county jail in lieu of $150,000 cash bond only.