

Suspect Arrested & Arraigned on Gun Charges

Newark - A city man was arraigned today on weapons and drug charges following his arrest by Essex County sheriff's officers on Friday night.

Sheriff Armando Fontoura stated that officers from his department's Patrol Division were conducting quality of life operations in Newark's South Ward at 9:00 p.m. on Friday when they observed a 2000 Buick Regal traveling at a high rate of speed in West Bigelow Street.

Activating overhead lights and siren, the suspect vehicle was pulled over on Bergen Street.

Fontoura said that as the sheriff's officers approached the Buick they could detect the strong odor of burnt marijuana.

The driver of the vehicle, Shyiem Gordon, age 20 of Newark, could not produce a valid driver's license, registration papers or an insurance card. It was also discovered that the Buick temporary paper license tag was a forgery.

Both Gordon and his passenger, Najee Burgess, age 22 of Irvington, were ordered out of the vehicle.

The officers immediately spotted the handle of a handgun protruding from Burgess's right rear pants pocket. The weapon was a fully loaded, Smith & Wesson, .38 caliber revolver. Burgess who was also found to have an unlit marijuana cigarette in his right hand was placed under arrest.

Burgess was charged with the unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of a controlled dangerous substance. He was also issued a summons for having CDS in a motor vehicle.

Gordon was charged with criminal simulation for the forged temporary tag. He was also issued motor vehicle summons for careless driving, fictitious plates and for operating an unregistered vehicle. He was released and will answer the charges at a later date.

At today's arraignment, Judge Marilyn Williams remanded Burgess to the county jail and set his bail at \$15,000.