



“Sheriff’s Office traffic stop leads to arrests for CDS and firearm possession”

Westminster, Carroll County, Maryland; August 29, 2025 ---- On Thursday, August 28th, 2025, at approximately 1:51PM, members of the Pro-Active Community Enforcement (PACE) Team were conducting traffic enforcement on Baltimore Boulevard when they observed a GMC SUV travelling Westbound with a passenger not utilizing a seatbelt and following too close to the sedan immediately in front of them.

A traffic stop was initiated and the vehicle pulled into a parking lot in the 500 block of Baltimore Boulevard. The driver, identified as Julia Taylor Lease, a 28-year-old female with a Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, address, advised the Deputy that she was in possession of a firearm concealed in her purse, which was then secured by the Deputy.

Based on observations, a K9 scan for Controlled Dangerous Substances was requested, and resulted in a positive alert for the odor of CDS. While standing outside of the vehicle, the passenger, identified as Maurice Dennis Bray Jr, a 30-year-old male from Gettysburg, began making unusual movements as though attempting to maneuver an item concealed in his pants leg. During a subsequent search of Bray, a Deputy located the item and moved to place him in handcuffs. Bray broke free and fled on foot.

Deputies were able to catch up to Bray, who continued to resist arrest. He was eventually taken to the ground and handcuffed. A plastic baggie containing white rock substance, believed to be over 14 grams of crack cocaine, was recovered. During the subsequent search of the vehicle, a digital scale, cell phone, and over \$280 in U.S. Currency was found and secured as evidence.

Bray was found to be restricted from possessing a handgun or ammunition, and Lease did not have a permit to carry a concealed handgun in Maryland. They were both arrested and transported to Carroll County Central Booking.

Bray was charged with 7 offenses related to the firearm and ammunition, 3 offenses related to the possession of CDS, and 1 count of resisting/interfering with arrest. Lease was charged with 4 offenses related to the firearm.

Both were held without bail and currently remain at the Carroll County Detention Center. (All individuals are presumed innocent of the pending charges until proven guilty in a court of law).