

Re: PE Security Patrol Officer Makes Arrests

Fellow residents,

It is what I am about to tell you, that goes to show you the importance of what the added extra JPSO patrols provide to us in Plantation Estates. Had our patrol officer not been on "duty", we have no way of knowing exactly what these three individuals were planning. They could not provide the detail officer an accurate account for their actions.

Last night around 10:52 PM, our detail patrol officer spotted a black 1994 Toyota Celica occupied by three individuals driving suspiciously through the neighborhood. After observing the driver roll through the stop sign at Briarfield & Melrose Officer Dominick Sciortino decided to stop the vehicle.

As the officer approached the vehicle, he could see a lot of movement from within. Upon drawing closer to the driver's side Officer Sciortino noticed one of the occupants closing the center console. All three individuals were ordered to remain still while in the vehicle. Upon noticing an odor coming from the vehicle, Officer Sciortino began questioning the suspects of the origin of the smell. One of the suspects replied by saying "we were ridding through the neighborhood smoking weed".

Officer Sciortino also observed one of the suspects moving his leg in an attempt to cover something under his foot. Upon closer examination, a glass smoking pipe containing what appeared to be marijuana was lying on the floor in plain view. All three suspects were ordered out of the vehicle. After searching the vehicle Officer Sciortino noticed a pill bottle containing marijuana. It was at that time Officer Sciortino placed each suspect under arrest for Possession of Marijuana along with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. The driver was additionally booked with having an outstanding traffic attachment. He was also cited for numerous traffic violations.

Often times, our security detail officers conduct stops on both suspicious subjects as well as vehicles. Some incidents such as the one mentioned above may even result in arrests. It is our responsibility to look out for each other. We need to continue encouraging everyone in PE to be aware of their surroundings at all times. And please, call 911 to report anything that looks suspicious to you.

Colonel John N. Fortunato
Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office