



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** December 30, 2019

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## Suspects Flee Traffic Stop During Search of Vehicle

Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) deputies conducted a traffic stop on Monday morning around 1:40 a.m. after a vehicle made a left turn into oncoming traffic. The driver, 30-year-old Dwayne Michael Carty, stated that he was not familiar with the area and did not know he was turning the wrong way.

The occupants told deputies that they were traveling from West Palm Beach to St. Augustine. There was no luggage or signs of long distance travel in the vehicle and the vehicle was registered to a female with no relation to the occupants. Carty voluntarily allowed deputies to search the vehicle.

Within the trunk of the vehicle, deputies found a plastic shopping bag tied closed. Deputies were able to view a large vacuum-sealed bag containing a large amount of presumed marijuana. While deputies were examining the contents of the trunk, Carty put the vehicle in drive and accelerated from the traffic stop at a high rate of speed.



Charlie Squad deputies at the conclusion of the case.

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Carty traveled north on I-95 recklessly to the 289 I-95 N off ramp. Deputies successfully deployed stop sticks causing a controlled deflation of the suspect's tires. Carty continued fleeing until the vehicle eventually crashed into a Spectrum cable box near the rear of the Post Office on Pine Cone Drive, causing approximately \$1,000 in damage. Carty fled on foot through the woods to the back-side of the Post Office.

Two employees of the Post Office told deputies that the male hid under a building at the back of the Post Office. Carty was located under the building and was secured in handcuffs. The passenger, 21-year-old Shareef Brendon Mpuang, remained in the vehicle at the time of the crash and was taken into custody. During the investigation it was revealed that Mpuang had altered his U.S. Visa illegally after it expired. Mpuang was placed under arrest for Unauthorized Possession of an Identification Card.

"These guys put the lives of our deputies in danger when they decided to flee while deputies were searching the vehicle," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "We are thankful that no one was injured. This highlights the dangers deputies face on a daily basis and how a routine traffic stop can change quickly."

The marijuana weighed approximately 323 grams. Carty was charged with Possession of Marijuana, Fleeing Law Enforcement, Reckless Driving, Leaving the Scene of a Crash Involving Damage, Tampering with Evidence, and Resisting an Officer without Violence.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection determined the subjects were unlawfully residing within the United States and requested they be held for their agency.

Link to AXON body-worn camera footage can be viewed here:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1hZkJM\\_E9S-gZRQOLjIUP5RHXMVW38PVU](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1hZkJM_E9S-gZRQOLjIUP5RHXMVW38PVU)

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