



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

NEWS RELEASE

Date: December 28, 2021

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Release #: 2021-298

UPDATE: Georgia Fugitive Arrested During Traffic Stop Additionally Charged after FDLE Confirms Converted Firearm was an Illegal Machine Gun

On November 21, 2021, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling on Belle Terre due to a vehicle infraction. The driver, identified as Benjamin Jacob Bowie (DOB: 1/28/1998), was arrested for Carrying a Concealed Firearm, Resisting Officer without Violence, and Possession of Cannabis, with additional charges pending lab results from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) on a firearm that deputies believe had been altered into a fully-automatic machine gun.

On December 17, 2021, the FDLE Laboratory concluded the Glock 17 handgun seized during the traffic stop had been converted into a machine gun, against state and federal law.

"Traffic stops are never 'routine' and this case proves it," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "Bowie was a wanted fugitive from Georgia armed with a gun he had converted to a machine gun. Our deputies did a phenomenal job handling this situation that could have turned deadly very quickly. He's now charged with this felony and we are working with federal agencies to see if they will adopt this case and put him in federal prison for a long time. In the meantime, he has a room at the Green Roof Inn to ring in the New Year!"

Bowie was additionally arrested for Possession of Short Barreled Firearm. He is currently being held at the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility on no bond.

Original News Release #: 2021-275

Date: November 22, 2021

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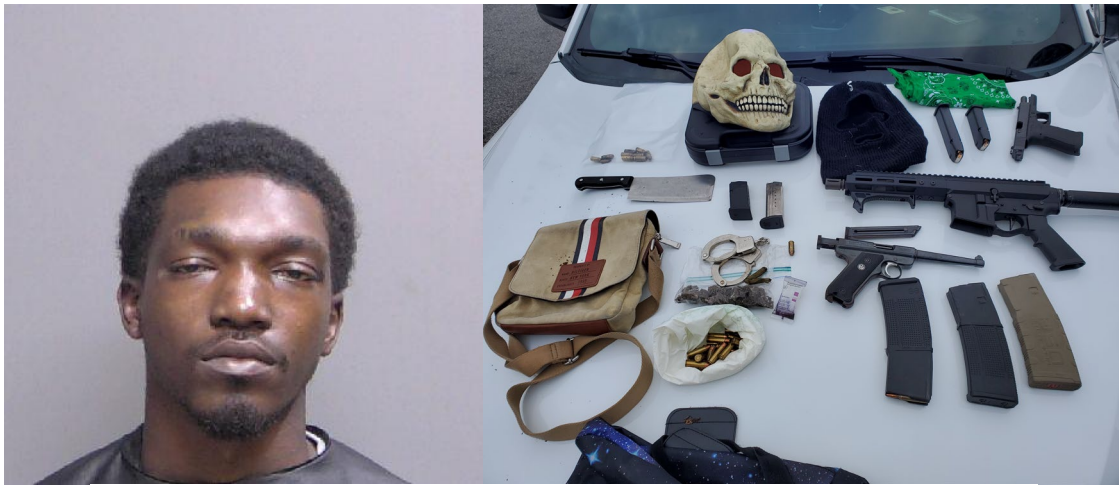
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Traffic Stop Leads to Arrest of Wanted Georgia Fugitive and Recovery of Multiple Firearms

On November 21, 2021, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling southbound on Belle Terre due to a vehicle infraction of the driver's side tail light. The driver, identified as Benjamin Jacob Bowie (DOB: 1/28/1998), was approached by deputies and showed suspicious behavior upon questioning.



L: Benajmin Bowie during booking at the jail. R: The recovered items in Bowie's vehicle.

Deputies explained to Bowie their observations and reason for the traffic stop and Bowie appeared to be nervous, stumbling through responses, and reaching towards the floorboard. A strong odor of what was believed to be cannabis was coming from the vehicle and Bowie was instructed to exit.

While deputies started to review the initial traffic violation, Bowie attempted to push a deputy out of the way to regain access to his vehicle. Bowie was then secured for officer safety and during handcuffing, he resisted before being placed into a patrol vehicle.

A search of the vehicle was conducted and a satchel-type bag was located with two firearms, magazines, and ammunition by the driver's side floorboard. A bag of cannabis was recovered on the passenger side floorboard, weighing 12.4 grams. Deputies also recovered two additional firearms, magazines, and ammunition in the trunk, along with a rubber skeleton face mask, and a black full-face knitted mask with mouth and eye holes.

Bowie was then found to have a warrant from Pierce County Georgia for Grand Theft Auto and he was recently arrested by Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) for Resisting Arrest with Violence and Possession of Cannabis. He was out on bond and has a criminal history of Aggravated Assault and Aggravated Cruelty to Animals in Georgia.

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"Here's another example of how a routine traffic stop led deputies to arresting a dangerous wanted criminal," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "A traffic violation turned into the recovery of multiple firearms and a fugitive traveling into Flagler County. Our deputies did a phenomenal job handling this situation that could have ended very differently had this guy grabbed the gun that was under his seat. A reminder to criminals that you can run, but if you hide in Flagler County, we will put you in jail where you belong!"

Bowie was arrested for Carrying a Concealed Firearm, Resisting Officer without Violence, and Possession of Cannabis Under 20g. He was transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility without further incident and is being held on no bond.

Due to additional testing being conducted by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) on one of the recovered firearms, additional charges are pending.

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