

## Rick Staly, Sheriff FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## <u>Traffic Stop Leads to Two Arrests; Stolen Firearm, Narcotics</u> and Vehicle Seized

BUNNELL, Fla. — The Flagler County Sheriff's Office arrested two Bradford County men on narcotics-related charges following a traffic stop in Palm Coast, where the driver was also found in possession of a stolen firearm.

Daquan Jackson, 22, and Damarcus Brown, 21, both of Starke, were traveling northbound along U.S. 1 with their high beams on when an FCSO deputy initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of U.S. 1 and Kankakee Trail.

Upon approaching the vehicle, the deputy noticed a strong odor of burnt marijuana and smoke emanating from inside. While extinguishing the marijuana cigarette in the ashtray, Jackson apologized to the deputy for the smoke and stated that he had a medical marijuana card.

After observing slurred speech and bloodshot eyes from both Jackson and Brown, the deputy asked Jackson to perform a series of field sobriety exercises, to which he agreed but was unable to complete effectively. As a result, deputies arrested Jackson for driving under the influence.

Despite Jackson's claims of having a medical marijuana card, the marijuana was not in its original dispensary container. Deputies then asked Brown to step out of the vehicle so that they could conduct a search. He complied and handed over a black bag containing plastic bags, two scales, and a small bag of marijuana.

Inside the vehicle, deputies located a stolen handgun with the serial number removed under the driver's seat, marijuana inside a red plastic cup, a smoked marijuana cigarette on the floorboard, and two more scales, plastic bags, and a large pickle jar filled with marijuana inside a backpack in the

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backseat. Deputies also found two cough medicine bottles filled with an unknown substance, which were sent to a lab for testing.

"This is yet another example of how proactive policing and a simple traffic stop can lead to illegal drugs and a stolen firearm being taken off our streets," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "Had these men been sober, they may have gotten away with a simple citation, but now they are facing felonies. Make no mistake, our deputies will continue to aggressively go after traveling criminals who bring drugs and guns into Flagler County."





Daquan Jackson (L) and Damarcus Brown (R) (Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility mugshots)

Jackson was arrested for DUI, possession of a firearm with the serial number removed, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and violation of probation. He was also issued a citation for failure to dim his high beams for oncoming traffic. Brown was arrested for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.

Jackson has prior convictions for cocaine possession with intent to sell, violation of probation, and felony battery.

Both men were transported to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility, where Jackson is being held without bond and Brown is being held on a \$5,000 bond.

The vehicle was seized for forfeiture because it was used in the commission of multiple felonies.

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