

BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

581 Highway 23 NE • P.O. Box 159 • Foley, MN 56329

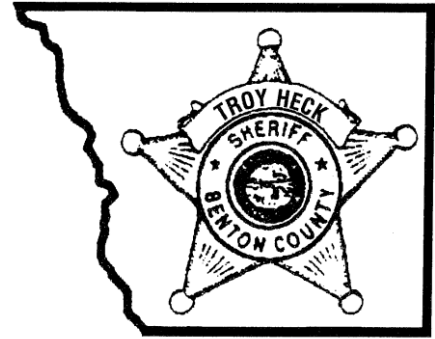
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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 07/19/2021

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

On July 18th, the Benton County Sheriff's Office arrested a man found in possession of suspected cocaine, suspected methamphetamine, and a large sum of cash.

At about 1:30 am on July 18th, 2021, the Benton County Sheriff's Office received the report of a white Toyota driving eastbound in the westbound lane of Hwy 23 near the intersection of 40th Ave NE. Deputies responded to the area and located a white Toyota driving in the area of Hwy 23 and 35th Ave NE. The deputy who found this vehicle noted that it was displaying a temporary license from Arkansas and driving well below the posted speed limit for the roadway. As the deputy was following the vehicle, he observed the vehicle swerve dramatically back and forth over the fog line. Deputies initiated a traffic stop on this vehicle and made contact with the driver, Luis Alberto Mares Rodriguez, age 32 of Cadereyta Jimenez, Mexico. Rodriguez told deputies that he was in the United States on a visa to conduct business. Rodriguez told deputies that he had traveled to the St. Cloud area from Minneapolis and was looking for a cheap motel in the St. Cloud area. Rodriguez told officers he had flown into Houston, TX about a week ago and driven a car from Houston to Arkansas before changing cars and driving to Minneapolis. Rodriguez said that he intended to leave from the St. Cloud area soon and drive to Nashville, TN. Officers noted that Rodriguez appeared to be lacking sufficient spare clothing and other things a person who was travelling for an extended period of time would normally carry, that his answers to questions were inconsistent, and other indications consistent with individuals who traffic controlled substances. Investigating deputies requested a K-9 from the Sauk Rapids Police Department conduct a search of the vehicle. The K-9 gave indication that there were controlled substances present in the vehicle. Deputies searched the vehicle and found a softball-sized package containing a white powdery substance that field tested positive for cocaine, about \$10,000.00 in US currency, a pipe used for smoking methamphetamine, a small baggie containing suspected methamphetamine, and a notebook documenting what appeared to be drug transactions. Rodriguez was placed under arrest and taken to the Benton County Jail. Rodriguez is currently being held in the Benton County Jail awaiting his first appearance.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office was assisted in this investigation by the Sauk Rapids Police Department and the Minnesota State Patrol.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Troy Heck'.

Troy Heck
Benton County Sheriff