

New Bedford Narcotics detectives seize large amount of cocaine following car and foot pursuit

"Narcotics detectives have seized a large amount of cocaine from two individuals who lead them on a vehicle and foot chase.

On May 22nd, at around 9 PM, detectives assigned to the "Organized Crime Intelligence Bureau" attempted to stop a vehicle in the area of the Mill St./Florence St. intersection. The vehicle sped away from the scene, striking a cruiser in the process. In the area of the Hillman St./Liberty St. intersection, a passenger exited the vehicle and fled on foot as the vehicle sped away.

Detective Drew Frenette gave chase as the passenger ran south through the Bedford Townhouses, dropping several items into a bush before ultimately being taken into custody. He was identified as Mr. MARCUS DEPINA, 35, of 436 Mill St. The items that DEPINA had discarded were found to be 3 baggies containing a total of over 320 grams of cocaine.

Simultaneously, Detective Matthew Sylvia continued to pursue the vehicle from which DEPINA had emerged. The operator traveled erratically at a high rate of speed before finally coming to a stop on 195 West. He was identified as Mr. JONATHAN SANCHEZ, 34, of 47 Jonathan St. As a result of the search that followed, a small baggie of fentanyl was discovered along with over \$3750 in cash. This cash was seized as a result of being illicit proceeds.

Both SANCHEZ and DEPINA are charged with trafficking cocaine in excess of 200 grams, possession with intent to distribute

class "A" substance, and conspiracy to violate the controlled substance laws. Additionally, SANCHEZ is charged with failing to stop for police and reckless operation. SANCHEZ also has a previous conviction for trafficking in cocaine, making this a subsequent offense.

If you have information you'd like to provide to the police, you can do so anonymously at 508-99-CRIME, or by messaging our website at www.newbedfordpolice.com."-New Bedford Police Department.