



**City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Police Department**

Albert F. Dupere
Chief of Police

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release-Fall River, Massachusetts. December 7th, 2017
Police Spokesman- Detective John Robinson

A Fall River man was arrested on a charge of Possession with Intent to Distribute a Class B Controlled substance (Crack Cocaine).

On December 6th, 2017 at approximately 6:00 pm, Officers of the Fall River Police Departments Special Operations Divisions Impact Task Force were patrolling the Flint Neighborhood in the area of Pleasant when they observed three people in a vehicle with its left turn signal activated while turning right. Officers Brandon Stukus and Paul McGuire followed the vehicle and observed the vehicle pull over to the curb on Pleasant Street. They observed a female approach the vehicle and attempt to enter the rear passenger seat. These officers exited their cruiser and asked the female to step away from the vehicle as they approached the operator and conducted a motor vehicle stop.

The officers asked that the passengers keep their hands visible. One of the passengers didn't keep his hands visible. This passenger (identified as **Jeremy Rodriguez age 22**) was removed from the car while stating he only had weed on him. Officer Stukus performed a 'Pat Frisk' for weapons but when he reached the area where Mr. Rodriguez said he had weed, Officer Stukus felt a bag that he immediately knew wasn't a weapon but wasn't weed either. The bag didn't feel soft like marijuana packaging. The bag felt like it contained several small rocks consistent with a street-level packing of crack cocaine. When he removed the bag he discovered 6 small bags of crack cocaine.

Jeremy Rodriguez age 22 of 515 Whipple Street Fall River was taken into custody on a charge of Possession with intent to Distribute a Class B Controlled substance (Crack Cocaine).

A Harrisville Rhode Island woman was arrested on charges of: Possession of Class B Substance (Cocaine) and Possession of Class C substance (Klonopin)

On December 5th, 2017 at approximately 3:15 pm Officer Joshua Carreiro of the Fall River Police Departments Special Operations Divisions Street Crimes Unit observed a vehicle swerve and nearly strike a barrier on Route 79 Northbound while exiting onto Davol Street. Officer Carreiro performed a motor vehicle stop on Davol Street. As he approached the vehicle he observed several people moving around inside. Officers J. Ruggiero, R. Saraiva, and K. Bshara responded to assist. While speaking with the operator Officer Carreiro observed passenger **Virginia M. LaRochelle age 26** reach down towards her feet and purse despite repeated directions from officers on scene to keep her hands insight. Ms. LaRochelle was removed from the vehicle and a female police officer was requested to respond to the scene. Ms. LaRochelle told Officer Carreiro that she had ‘coke’ in a pill bottle in her purse. Coke is a street slang term used when referring to cocaine. Officer Bshara looked in the purse and saw two pill bottles, one bottle containing cocaine, the other two (2) and a half tablets of Klonopin.

Virginia M. LaRochelle age 26 of 23 Barnes Road Harrisville Rhode Island was taken into custody on charges of: Possession of Class B substance (Cocaine) and Possession of Class C substance (Klonopin)



Detective J. Robinson
Public Information Officer
Office of Professional Standards

***** End of Release*****