



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND 21842

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For Immediate Release:

SEAT BELT VIOLATION REVEALS IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE

On July 16, 2008, at 11:20 in the morning, in the area of 7th Street and Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City Police Officers conducted a traffic stop of a car for a driver not wearing a seat belt.

During the traffic stop officers observed open containers of alcoholic beverage and suspected Marijuana in plain view within the passenger compartment of the car. Both the driver and the passenger were subsequently arrested for possession of Marijuana. The two suspects have been identified as: Roger Lee Shipley, III, (24) years of age of Carlisle, Pennsylvania and Jeremiah Charles Spelas (25) years of age, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

During a search of the suspect's vehicle, a suspicious item was located by officers in the passenger compartment of the car. The item was shaped like a grenade and wrapped in black tape. The item appeared to have a fuse protruding from one end of the device. Officer's immediately recognized the item may be an improvised explosive device (IED). The area was immediately sealed off and the Ocean City Fire Marshal's Bomb Squad responded to the scene.

Ocean City Bomb Technicians removed the suspected IED from the vehicle and transported the device to undisclosed location outside of Ocean City to render it safe.

Shipley and Spelas have been charged with possession of Marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, carrying a concealed deadly weapon and related alcoholic beverage violations. Charges are pending from the OC FM Bomb Squad for the Manufacturing and Possession of a Destructive Device, related to the recovered suspected improvised explosive device.

Both suspects are in OCPD custody awaiting an appearance before a District Court Commissioner.

July 16, 2008

CC# 2008004850

PFC Michael Levy

Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. OCPD@ococcean.com