



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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For Immediate Release:

OCPD BIKE OFFICER MAKES DRUG ARREST THAT LEADS TO SEIZURE OF LOADED GUN

On Thursday, July 2, 2009, at approximately 3:00 p.m., an Ocean City Police Officer on uniformed bicycle patrol noticed two men walking in the area of 11th Street and Baltimore Avenue. As the officer approached the men, she noticed that one of the men was smoking what appeared to be Marijuana.

Officers approached the suspect, who was later identified as Joseph Allen Downes, 21-years-old of Denton, Maryland, and asked if he was in possession of Marijuana. Downes, who initially denied having any Marijuana, admitted that he was not only in possession of drugs but also a handgun.

The handgun, a Jennings .22 Caliber Long Rifle Model J-22, was loaded with two rounds in the magazine. In addition to the gun, OCPD officers seized \$270 in cash, 1 baggy of Crack Cocaine, 1 baggy of powdered Cocaine, 5 baggies of Marijuana and 1 partially burned Marijuana cigar.

Downes was arrested for nine separate charges relating to narcotic and weapons violations, including possession of CDS, possession with intent to distribute and possession of firearm. He was seen by a District Court Commissioner and was held on \$100,000 bond.

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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@ococean.com

