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TWO MEN ARRESTED WITH ILLEGAL WEAPONS FOLLOWING TRAFFIC STOP

Pittsburgh PA ---- Sheriff Kevin M. Kraus announced today that deputies on routine patrol last night arrested two armed individuals following a traffic stop. The deputies were traveling through Hazelwood just before 9:00pm when they observed a vehicle roll through two stop signs. Upon checking the license plate, the deputies learned that the vehicle's registration was revoked, and the owner of the vehicle had a suspended license.

A traffic stop was initiated at which time the deputies noticed six occupants of the vehicle and a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. The driver and front seat passenger were identified and told the deputies that they were "jitney" drivers giving the four back seat occupants a ride from McKeesport.

Several Pittsburgh Police units arrived on the scene to assist as deputies asked for and received consent to search the vehicle. The four back seat passengers all denied having any form of identification. The deputies asked one of the individuals to exit the vehicle and that individual, later identified as 21-year-old Dijuan Taylor, attempted to run away before being stopped. Taylor was resisting the deputies when a gun fell from his possession onto the street. Other officers assisted the deputies as Taylor continued to resist before being placed in custody.

As Taylor was taken into custody, another passenger, later identified as 20-year-old Preston Hemingway, spontaneously said that he had a gun and should be taken to jail. Hemingway was ordered out of the vehicle and the gun was recovered from a satchel he was wearing around his upper body. Neither individual possessed a concealed carry permit.

Taylor, whose firearm was a Glock 19X with an extended magazine and a round in the chamber, was found to have five active warrants including a felony robbery warrant and three probation violations. As a result of the stop, he is facing two firearms violations as well as resisting arrest and flight to avoid apprehension.

Hemingway, whose gun was a black and purple Taurus with a full magazine and a round in the chamber, is charged with two firearm violations.

"This was good work in the midst of a potentially dangerous situation," said Sheriff Kevin M. Kraus. "Any illegal weapon that my deputies and all law enforcement can get off the streets is important to the safety of the community."

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