



SAN BENITO POLICE

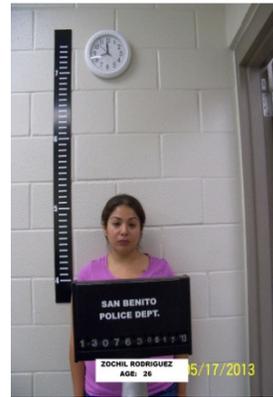
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PRESS RELEASE

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA / POSSESSION OF COCAINE

MONDAY MAY 20, 2013



On Thursday May 16, 2013, at 11:40 pm, San Benito Police Department ICE task force agents received a call regarding a narcotic seizure at the Gateway International Port of Entry in Brownsville, Texas. Upon their arrival they made contact with US Customs and Border Protection agents who had detained 42 year old Jorge Ortiz-Espinoza out of Brownsville for attempting to smuggle 43.6 lbs. of marijuana. According to US CBP the suspect attempted to cross into the United States in a 1997 White Buick 4 door that was referred to a secondary inspection. During the inspection US CBP agents discovered a total of 44 small bundles concealed inside a compartment located by the driver side fender. Since the seizure did not meet the federal threshold for prosecution the case was referred to the San Benito Police Department for State prosecution. Jorge Ortiz Espinoza was then placed under arrest, and taken to the San Benito Jail where he was arraigned on possession of Marijuana charges (3rd degree Felony) by Justice of the Peace Manuel Flores who set bond at \$50,000. Suspect was later transported to the Cameron County with an immigration detainer issued by Homeland Security.

On Friday May 17, 2013, at 5:30 pm. San Benito Police Narcotics Investigators proceeded to execute a search warrant at a residence located on the 100 block of Maria Street. The investigators were able to locate a small amount of a rock like substance that later tested positive for crack cocaine, as well as paraphernalia. A female who was inside the residence at the time of the search who was identified as Zochil Rodriguez out of San Benito was charged with possession of controlled substance in a drug free zone as well as being wanted by this department on outstanding traffic warrants. Zochil Rodriguez was then taken to city jail where she was later arraigned by Justice of the Peace David Garza who set bond at \$5,000. Incident is still under investigation by narcotics investigators.

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