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Deputy's Routine Traffic Stop Nets Drugs and \$12,202 in Cash

- Money forfeited to Metro for law enforcement operations

(Jan. 26, 2006) A routine traffic stop by a Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau deputy near a Metro Green Line station in Lynwood Jan. 20, resulted in the arrest of two suspected drug dealers, a haul of marijuana and \$12,202 in cash.

Deputy Devin Vanderlaan arrested the men on multiple narcotics charges and a felony charge of bribery when the driver allegedly offered the deputy \$20,000 to release him.

Following the arrests, the \$12,202 was seized in accordance with state and federal laws and was forfeited to Metro, which will use it for law enforcement operations.

After he stopped the suspects' car for a minor vehicle code violation, Vanderlaan determined that the unlicensed driver was wanted for traffic violations and that the passenger was under the influence of methamphetamines.

Five cell phones and a sheaf of "pay-owe" documents commonly used by drug dealers to keep track of payments between suppliers and street dealers also were found in the vehicle. The documents and the gym bagful of marijuana pointed to a moderately sized local operation.

Missing VIN numbers on the suspects' vehicle suggest it may have been stolen. It was impounded for further investigation.