

NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) December 2023

**THE NEW HARMONY GAZETTE!
SPECIAL REPORT ON MAJOR
METH ARREST**

**INDIANA STATE POLICE SEIZE 10
POUNDS OF METH ON NOVEMBER
27th POSSIBLY HEADED FOR
EVANSVILLE.**

By: D. Barton
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Indiana State Police Trooper Aaron Hadley intercepted more than 10 pounds of Meth reportedly bound from St. Louis and headed for Evansville, on November 27th at 3:10 p.m. Two women were arrested in connection with seizure.

The two women were described as 33 year old Demetria Gray - who was charged with dealing Meth, a Level 2 Felony and 34 year old Shawuniqua Phillips for Possession of Marijuana - both are said to be from St. Louis.

Trooper Hadley clocked a white Dodge Charger traveling eastbound at 88 miles per hour near the 9 mile marker on Interstate 64. The speed limit is 70 miles per hour.

Hadley pulled the vehicle over and as he approached the passenger side window he said that he could smell the very strong odor of raw cannabis. Cannabis is legal in Missouri and Illinois but illegal in Indiana.

Once Hadley returned to his patrol vehicle with driver I.D. cards he learned that Gray's (the driver) driver's license was suspended in Missouri.

A second Indiana State Police Trooper soon arrived on the scene and Hadley reportedly told that Trooper that his plan was to pull the occupants out of the vehicle and search it.

Trooper Hadley said that he then told Gray that he could smell suspected Marijuana and asked her if there was any in the car. He said that she nodded her head and told him that she had some in the center console. Trooper Hadley asked if there was anything else inside the car, and she assured him that there wasn't.

Hadley reported that a search of the vehicle's center console found a police evidence bag labeled, "ST. LOUIS COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, and that it contained a green plant like substance. He then reportedly found a second bag of what appeared to be Marijuana, along with raw Marijuana buds and stems in the cars cup holders.

According to the Probable Cause Affidavit, Trooper Hadley then turned his attention to the trunk, where he could see a large bulge inside a trash bag. With gloves on, Hadley, peeled back the trash bag and stated that he could see several small shards of a crystal-like substance strewn about.

Hadley said that he found a large vacuum-sealed package. It had been sliced open at the top, and he saw a very large amount - several pounds worth - of the same crystal like substance he claimed to have observed earlier.

While waiting for federal Drug Enforcement Administration officers to arrive at the scene Hadley said that he field tested the crystal -like substance and got a positive hit for Meth.

Investigators later logged its weight 4,559 grams or just over 10 pounds.

Michael Gannon, an assistant special agent in charge with the DEA based out of Indianapolis, said that the seizure represented a significant win for law

enforcement.

Gannon said that the DEA has noted a shift in large scale meth trafficking in the Midwest over the past decade: Now, instead of being made in homemade labs, the seized Meth often traces back to large scale facilities in Mexico.

After handcuffing Gray and Phillips, the State Police separated both women and read them their Miranda Rights. Gray and Phillips agreed to speak with investigators and both denied having any knowledge of a meth filled package.

During those interviews, Hadley said that Phillips told investigators that Gray asked her to go with her to meet Grays mother in Evansville. He went on to say in the Affidavit that Phillips had reported that Gray wanted to pick up a bag of clothing to drop off when they arrived. Phillips said they picked up the bag of what she thought was clothing while they were in St. Louis.

Gray reportedly told a similar story: She said she was contacted by a family member to pick up a bag of clothing in St, Louis and was instructed to drop it off to a different family member in Evansville, the affidavit states.

Hadley wrote that Gray admitted the marijuana recovered from the car belonged to both her and Phillips, though she was adamant that she had no prior knowledge that the package in the trunk contained approximately 10 pounds of methamphetamine.

Troopers photographed the now seized narcotics and released the drugs into the custody of the DEA. A towing company then picked up the Dodge Charger. Hadley said that he transported both Gray and Phillips to the Posey County Jail.

DEA, indicated the potential for federal prosecutors to take up the case, though on Tuesday, the U.S. Attorneys Office for the Southern District of Indiana had not publicly indicated it would do so.

Demetria Gray has been charged with 1) F2 Dealing Meth; 2) F3 Possession of Meth and 3) Possession of Marijuana a Class B Misdemeanor.

Gray is being held at the Posey County Jail on 1 million dollar surety bond or \$100,000 cash bail.

Shawnunique Phillips has been charged with Criminal Misdemeanor- Possession of Marijuana.

Judge Goedde and Prosecutor Thomas Clowers set bail at \$500 cash. Phillips posted bail on November 29, 2023 and was released.