

**PSO TED GREEN  
K-9 GERO  
KALAMAZOO DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

On Wednesday, 5-21-08, at approximately 0815hrs, I was requested to assist MSP (Michigan State Police) on I-94 near the 73-mile marker. I made contact with MSP Troopers who had stopped a rental vehicle out of Arkansas for speeding in a construction zone. MSP Troopers were denied consent and they requested a K-9 to conduct a “free air” sniff of the vehicle.

I arrived and began the “free air” sniff of the exterior of the 2008 Ford Fusion with K-9 Gero. I began the search at the passenger side front quarter panel. As K-9 Gero was searching along the drivers side front door, I observed that the window was completely rolled down. I observed that K-9 Gero jumped up onto the drivers side door without direction. I continued the exterior search of the vehicle. As K-9 Gero was searching along the trunk area, I observed that K-9 Gero stopped and began working the seam area around the trunk and license plate area. K-9 Gero continued to search on the passenger side off the vehicle. I observed that K-9 Gero continued the search along the bottom of the passenger side doors and to the front quarter panel area of the vehicle. I observed that K-9 Gero stopped and he began detailing the area around the front passenger side tire area. I observed that K-9 Gero’s tail was wagging as he stuck his head into the passenger side front tire wheel well.

While starting the search from the front passenger side quarter panel, I again observed K-9 Gero to stop in the area of the passenger side front tire. I observed that K-9 Gero

began going back and forth along the bottom of the passenger side of the vehicle from the back door to the passenger side front tire area. I continued to move around to the rear of the vehicle. I again observed that K-9 Gero again stuck his nose along the seam of the trunk and he continued to search onto the drivers side of the vehicle. It was apparent to me that K-9 Gero was in odor and there was PC to search the vehicle. As K-9 Gero was searching along the front drivers side door, I observed that K-9 Gero jumped into the open window. While inside the vehicle, I observed that K-9 Gero went directly to the backseat of the vehicle, behind the passenger seat. I observed that Gero raised his head, mouth slam shut, tail wagging and he began scratching at the area of the backrest of the backseat and along the rear deck of the vehicle. I rewarded K-9 Gero and K-9 Gero continued to give a positive indication to the odor of narcotics coming from the backseat area of the vehicle. K-9 Gero wouldn't leave the area of the backseat backrest and the rear deck lid. K-9 Gero had to be physically removed from the vehicle.

I spoke with MSP Troopers and they were advised that there was PC to search the vehicle and K-9 Gero had given a positive alert to the backseat/trunk area. While searching the interior of the vehicle, MSP Troopers located a one-way airfare receipt from Detroit MI to Denver CO from three days ago. MSP Troopers immediately went to the trunk area and located several nylon laundry bags. Inside the laundry bags was 150lbs of processed marijuana. The marijuana was packaged as follows; brick of marijuana, several layers of plastic wrap, dryer sheets, several more layers of plastic wrap, fresh coffee grounds, more layers of plastic wrap, layers of duct tape and the duct tape was covered with a powder substance (baby powder).

I am submitting this catch of the quarter given the fact that the driver had denied consent .The vehicle was stopped for a moving violation and without the K-9 exterior alert; officers would not have been able to legally search the vehicle. The suspects attempted to mask the odor of the marijuana using layers of plastic wrap, dryer sheets, fresh coffee grounds, duct tape and baby powder. Without the use of K-9 Gero, the marijuana would have went undetected. Both of the suspects were arrested on the charges of delivery of marijuana. The State charges were later dismissed after it was discovered that both of these suspects were involved in a multi-state marijuana delivery operation. Both of the suspects are being prosecuted federally.