

PSO Ted Green
K-9 Gero
Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, Kalamazoo, MI

On Thursday, 1-3-08, at approximately 1835hrs, I was requested to assist KVET (Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement Team) on a vehicle search in the 200 block of W Cedar in the City of Kalamazoo. KVET investigator had received information from an informant that the suspect is known to deal narcotics out of his vehicle.

While responding to the scene, I was told by KVET Investigators that they had verbal consent from the driver to search the vehicle. When I arrived, KVET investigators were speaking with the suspect outside of the vehicle. As I removed K-9 Gero from the patrol vehicle and began approaching the vehicle, I heard the driver state that he had changed his mind and that he didn't want officers to search his vehicle. The driver was licensed out of Ohio and had a lengthy history of narcotic sales.

As I was conducting the "free air sniff" of the vehicle, I observed K-9 Gero to stop along the drivers side door panel. I observed that K-9 Gero gave a positive alert to the odor of narcotics along the seam between the drivers door and the front drivers side quarter panel. I gave K-9 Gero verbal praise and continued the search of the exterior of the vehicle. While searching along the drivers side of the vehicle, I observed that K-9 Gero again gave a positive alert to the odor of narcotics coming from the area of the drivers side door handle. I informed the KVET Investigator that there was PC to search the car.

KVET Investigator began to search the interior passenger compartment of the car. I moved to the trunk area to conduct a search. As I opened the trunk, I observed that there were several grocery bags, filled with food, duffle bags and a plastic milk crate with car

cleaning supplies. I began to remove several of the items from the trunk and placed them onto the ground. I observed that K-9 Gero, without direction, jumped into the trunk area and dove directly to the left (drivers) side of the trunk and began scratching at the area behind the back seat. I heard the driver of the vehicle tell KVET Investigator that there was a bag of marijuana inside the trunk, which weighed approximately 1/4oz. As I was removing K-9 Gero from the trunk area, I observed that K-9 Gero's mouth had slammed shut, as began to scratch at the carpet of the trunk floorboard. I observed that K-9 Gero was giving a positive alert to the cardboard cover that sits over the spare tire. After removing K-9 Gero from the trunk, I placed K-9 Gero into a "down/stay".

As I removed the cardboard cover over the spare tire, I located several bundles of US currency scattered around the spare tire. A total of \$5,610.00 was located inside the trunk compartment of the vehicle. KVET Investigator was informed of the 1/4oz of marijuana and the \$5,610.00 of US currency that K-9 Gero had located inside the trunk area.

The KVET Investigator stated that he concluded the search of the passenger compartment of the vehicle and that he was unable to locate any narcotics. Inside the passenger compartment of the vehicle, I observed that there were several more plastic bags with snack cakes, clothing, shoes and other items. I gave Gero the command to search as he jumped inside of the vehicle. I observed that K-9 Gero went directly to the backseat and began the working the backseat area. While searching along the floorboard behind the drivers seat, I observed that Gero's head came up, and he immediately jumped back into the front seat. I observed that K-9 Gero then began working the area of the dashboard near the gear shifter. K-9 Gero then attempted to stick his head underneath the dashboard

however he was unable to work the driver's side floorboard because of the steering wheel.

I opened the driver's door and removed K-9 Gero from the vehicle. With the driver door open, I started the search along the bottom of the driver's door. As K-9 Gero searched along the side of the dashboard, near the fuse box panel, I observed that K-9 Gero gave a positive alert to the odor of narcotics. I removed K-9 Gero from the vehicle and I conducted a secondary search of the dashboard. While searching underneath the dashboard, behind the fuse panel, I located a rolled up paper towel. Inside the paper towel, I located a plastic baggie that contained 35 rocks of crack cocaine.

The driver was arrested for delivery of cocaine; possession of marijuana and the \$5,610.00 in US currency was seized.

I am submitting this catch of the quarter given the fact that the driver had consented to the search and then later changed his mind. 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.

K-9 Gero searched the interior of the vehicle locating several rocks of crack cocaine even after the KVET Investigator had conducted a hand search of the passenger compartment, not locating the concealed narcotics underneath the dashboard.

During the search of the trunk that contained food, cleaning supplies and several duffle bags, K-9 Gero was able to quickly locate the 1/4oz of marijuana and also the \$5,610.00 in US currency that was concealed underneath the cardboard cover over the spare tire

and disregarded all of the other distractions within the trunk compartment.