

Deputy Gerrod Visel

K-9 Ziva

Washtenaw County Sheriff Office

Washtenaw, Michigan

On August 12, 2009, Deputy Gerrod Visel with K-9 partner Ziva and Deputy Williams were conducting foot patrol operations within the Sycamore Meadows apartment complex in Superior Township, Washtenaw County. Their proactive patrol was pursuant to suspected narcotics trafficking and weapons offenses including but not limited to past instances of shooting at occupied patrol vehicles. K-9 Ziva is a trained and certified Patrol/Narcotics dog.

At approximately 10:00 p.m. the Deputies initiated contact at 8898 MacArthur Blvd. to investigate loud music. Deputy Williams attempted contact at the front door of the townhouse apartment. Deputy Visel and K-9 Ziva remained standing on the sidewalk in front of the apartment. Deputy Visel observed his K-9 partner Ziva working odor. Ziva pulled Deputy Visel toward the parking area in front of the apartment residence. Ziva worked the odor to a parked, unoccupied vehicle. Ziva alerted, indicating at the driver's side door seam.

A subsequent LEIN inquiry revealed the registered owner did not reside in the apartment complex. Deputies Rush, Williams and Marocco initiated a neighborhood canvass and located the owner. The owner was identified, interviewed and provided consent to search to vehicle.

The consent search revealed seventeen bags of marijuana in a large black bag concealed beneath the driver's seat. The bags varied in size and quantity. A digital scale was discovered adjacent to the marijuana. The owner/suspect was arrested for Possession with Intent to Deliver Marijuana and lodged in the Washtenaw County Jail. Due to K-9 Ziva's motivation and initiative a drug dealer was found and arrested. Respectfully submitted by Sgt. Steve Armstrong, Washtenaw County Sheriff Office.

