



City of Ridgecrest Police Department

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Ronald N. Strand, Chief of Police

Press Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: 04/03/2013 AND 04/23/2013
TYPE OF INCIDENT: POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE FOR SALES
TRANSPORTATION OF METHAMPHETAMINE
RESISTING ARREST
LOCATION OCCURED: 400 BLOCK OF W. MOYER AVE. / 500 BLOCK OF E. COMMERCIAL AVE.
SUSPECT(S): **Robert James Bertrand – 29 Years Old – Ridgecrest Resident**

On 04/03/2013, at about 10:00 pm, Sergeant Justin Dampier conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the 400 block of W. Moyer Ave. for traffic violations. He contacted the driver and sole occupant, Robert Bertrand. Bertrand exhibited signs of methamphetamine use. He was subsequently arrested for DUI and being under the influence of a controlled substance. Approximately ¼ ounce of methamphetamine was located in his possession as well as several thousand dollars in US currency. Evidence indicating Bertrand possessed the methamphetamine for the purpose of sales was also located. Bertrand was booked into the Kern County Jail on charges of possession of a controlled substance for sales, transportation of a controlled substance, DUI, and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

Bertrand was released on a bail/bond in this case pending further criminal proceedings.

On 04/23/2013, at about 6:30 pm, Officer Aaron Tucker conducted a traffic stop on Bertrand in the 500 block of E. Commercial Ave. As Bertrand was acting suspiciously and possessed several knives, Officer Tucker began a cursory frisk of his person. Bertrand began to "tense up" and Officer Tucker began to handcuff him for his safety. Bertrand twisted away from Officer Tucker and fled the scene by running in a Southwest direction. Responding RPD patrol officers assisted Officer Tucker in apprehending Bertrand in the backyard of a residence located in the 500 block of E. California Ave.

In the vehicle driven by Bertrand, approximately 2 ½ ounces of suspected methamphetamine was located. In the backyard of the residence where Bertrand was ultimately apprehended, additional methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia was located. Bertrand again was found to be in possession of several thousand dollars in US currency. Bertrand was booked into the Kern County Jail on charges of possession of a controlled substance for sales, transportation of a controlled substance, DUI, being under the influence of a controlled substance, and resisting/delaying a peace officer.

The US currency possessed by Bertrand in both incidents was seized pending Asset Forfeiture proceedings through the Kern County District Attorney's Office.

Prepared By: Sgt. Justin Dampier

RONALD N. STRAND - Chief of Police
Wednesday, April 24, 2013 03:12