

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

1250 Eglin Parkway • Shalimar, Florida 32579-1234
Phone: (850) 651-7410 • Email: sheriff@sheriff-okaloosa.org

March 16, 2013

OCSO CRACKDOWN ON SYNTHETIC DRUG SALES SEEING SUCCESS



The Okaloosa County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force (DTF) attempted at least eighty-four purchases of controlled synthetic drugs from local convenience stores and specialty stores throughout Okaloosa County since spring break initiated. These drugs are commonly sold as "Spice, K-2, Bath Salts, Screen Cleaner, Plant Food, Lady Bug Attractant" and various other products and are purchased by people seeking the effects of marijuana, cocaine and other illicit drugs. Of the stores, only one was found to be openly selling these substances. After controlled purchases, and FDLE chemistry analysis, a search warrant was obtained for that location:

Gina's 99 Cents Store
11 Eglin Pkwy., Ft Walton Beach

The DTF executed a search warrant at that location Friday afternoon, (March 15th) seized packages of suspected controlled substances and arrested Fort Walton Beach resident 20 year old Luis Meza-Cruz of 325 Carmel Drive #21 for sale of controlled substance within 1000 ft of a church. (Arrest report attached). 43-year old Timothy Peters of Gulf Breeze is charged with sale of a controlled substance with intent to distribute. (continued on page two)



Luis Alberto Meza-Cruz

Timothy Peters



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

1250 Eglin Parkway • Shalimar, Florida 32579-1234
Phone: (850) 651-7410 • Email: sheriff@sheriff-okaloosa.org

OCSO CRACKDOWN ON SYNTHETIC DRUG SALES SEEING SUCCESS

Page Two



Investigators believe the dramatic decrease in establishments selling synthetic drugs during this most recent undercover operation indicates the Sheriff's Office's efforts to combat the sale of these dangerous substances in area businesses is having a substantial impact. In addition, many Okaloosa County business owners and/or their parent corporations are cooperating with those efforts by agreeing to stop the sale of these items through the OCSO's new Gold Star Retailer campaign and ongoing interactions. However the Drug Task Force will continue to aggressively monitor the situation.

Since January 2012, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Drug Task Force has made 62 separate undercover buys of illegal synthetic drugs from local businesses, executed 22 search warrants, made four arrests with more pending, and seized eight vehicles along with more than \$625,000 in monies and \$2.9 million in inventory. This was **prior** to Friday's operation.

The Drug Task Force is comprised of Okaloosa Sheriff's Investigators, and officers from the Niceville Police Department and Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

###



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

1250 Eglin Parkway • Shalimar, Florida 32579-1234
Phone: (850) 651-7410 • Email: sheriff@sheriff-okaloosa.org



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the
Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal
opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ARREST REPORT

REPORT NO: OCSO13ARR002668

Jail Booking No	Offense No OCSO13OFF000335	Other No OCSO13CAD004396	OBTs
-----------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------	------

[SUSPECT]

Last First Middle Title Race Sex DOB Age Hgt Wgt
 MEZA-CRUZ LUIS ALBERTO W M 5/9/1992 20 5'09" 190
Eyes Hair MNI Number SSN I.D. No. St Type OCA/Agency ID
 BRO BLK OCSO13MNI002861

Birth Location: City: MEXICO CITY County: State: Nation: MEXICO Citizenship: MEXICO Address

326 CARMEL DRIVE Apt/Lot: 21 FORT WALTON BEACH FL 32548

Occupations (Current/Last Known is Listed First)

Business: GINA'S CONVENEINCE STORE, Job Title: MANAGER, Entered: 3/15/2013

11 NE EGLIN PKWY Suite: 1 FORT WLATON BEACH FL 32548

Aliases (Last, First Middle Title DOB)

* none found in MNI *

Street Names

* none found in MNI *

[INCIDENT INFORMATION]

Occurred Date Range: 3/12/2013 13:00 to 3/15/2013 13:05 Lat / Long
 No. Di Street Apt/Lot City ST Zip (GEO)
 11 SE EGLIN PW FORT WALTON BEAC FL 32548 2 - 19 - -

[CHARGES]

893.13.1a2

HALLUCINOGEN-SELL

HALLUCINOGEN-SELL SCHEDULE I OR III OR IV

<u>Counts</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>GOC</u>	<u>UCR</u>	<u>NCIC</u>	<u>AON</u>	<u>Bond Amount</u>
1	Felony	Third	Principal	350A		3503	

893.13.1e2

MARIJUANA-POSSESS

WIT SELL MFG DEL WI 1000 FT WORSHIP/BUSN SCH 1

<u>Counts</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>GOC</u>	<u>UCR</u>	<u>NCIC</u>	<u>AON</u>	<u>Bond Amount</u>
1	Felony	Second	Principal	350A		3562	

[STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE / NARRATIVE]

In the month of January 2013, your Affiant along with members of the Okaloosa County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force initiated an investigation into the distribution of large quantities of controlled synthetic cannabinoids and/or synthetic cathinones that was occurring in Okaloosa County, Florida.

The investigation focused on a store identified as Gina's 99 Cent Store located at 11 Eglin Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548. The business is involved in the selling of synthetic Cannabinoids, Synthetic Cathinones and/or Synthetic Phenethylamines.

In an effort to further this investigation, your Affiant did act as an Undercover Police Officer (UC), to conduct a controlled purchase of suspected synthetic drugs from Gina's 99 Cent Store located at 11 Eglin Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548.

On March 12, 2013, Your Affiant made a controlled purchase of synthetic cannabinoids, specifically "Maui" from Gina's 99 Cent Store located at 11 Eglin Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548 utilizing a set of established procedures. Prior to the controlled purchase, surveillance was established at Gina's 99 Cent Store located at 11 Eglin Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548. This controlled purchase was made within a very close proximity to a place of worship as

COPY

ARREST REPORT

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO13ARR002668

the business is located in the same business as the "Spirit of Christ" church.

The suspected synthetic cannabinoids "Maui" was sent to Florida Department of Law Enforcement Crime Lab for chemical analysis.

On March 13, 2013 your Affiant received information from the FDLE chemistry analysis of the "Maui" identifying the substance as XLR11 ((1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone).

Previously on December 11, 2012, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi issued 2ER12-1. This emergency rule specifically lists XLR11 ((1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone) as a synthetic cannabinoid and makes it a Schedule I controlled substance in 893.03.

Also on December 11, 2012, According to the Fort Walton Beach Police Department, a Cease and Desist letter was issued to the employee on duty at Gina's 99 Cent Store located at 11 Eglin Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548. The letter advised that pursuant to the new Emergency Rule 2ER12-1, any business or person who possesses, manufactures, distributes and/or sells these substances is subject to criminal prosecution and/or civil penalties as authorized by Florida Statutes.

The letter directed the business to immediately cease and desist the possession, manufacture, distribution and sale of these compounds and surrender forthwith any such compounds they may have in their possession to the Officer presenting them the letter.

As a result of this cease and desist letter, employees of the premises to be searched voluntarily relinquished a large amount of products suspected to be synthetic Cannabinoids, Synthetic Cathinones and Synthetic Phenethylamines. Specifically over 100 packets.

The employee on duty December 11, 2012 was the defendant, Luis Alberto Meza-Cruz. Meza-Cruz was also the employee that sold your affiant the controlled substance during the controlled purchase made on March 12, 2013. Post Miranda Meza-Cruz even positively identified himself in a picture that was taken during the transaction.

On March 15, 2013, I along with members of the Okaloosa County Multi-Agency Drug Task Force executed a narcotics search warrant at Gina's 99 Cent Store located at 11 Eglin Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548. As a result of the search warrant, a large amount of controlled synthetic cannabinoids were located and seized. The products seized were the same name brands of products obtained in the early controlled purchase that resulted in the presence of controlled substances per 893.03.

Based on your Affiant's investigation, your Affiant has just and reasonable cause to believe, and does believe, that the above named defendant, Luis Alberto Meza-Cruz, violated F.S.S. 893.13.1e2, Sale of a Schedule I Controlled Substance within 1000 feet of a place of religious worship services: XLR11 ((1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indol-3-yl)(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropyl)methanone) as well as F.S.S. 893.13.1a2 Possession of Controlled Substance with intent to sell. This offense did occur in Okaloosa County, Florida, where your Affiant is a full time sworn Law Enforcement Officer.

I hereby swear (or affirm) that the facts established on this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature (Arresting Officer)

REWIS, CHAD
Name

085
ID/SSN

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 16 day of March A.D., 2013 by _____

who is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

Signature

____ Notary Public

____ LEO

____ CO

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ARREST REPORT

REPORT NO: OCSO13ARR002668

Commission No: _____ My Commission Expires _____

[PHYSICAL EVIDENCE] [NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE LISTED]

[ARREST INFORMATION]

Arrested 3/15/2013 19:00	Residency Within jurisdiction	Injured None	Extent of Injury N/A	Resist No
	Arrested Prior No	Arrest Jurisdiction Within jurisdiction	Alcohol No	Drugs No
No. 11	Di SE	Street EGLIN PW	A/L	City FORT WALTON BEACH FL
				ST FL Zip 32548
Arresting Officer 085 REWIS, CHAD			Unit OCSO/FSV/INV/SID/DTF	(GEO) 2 - 19 - - Officer Type
Reporting Officer 085 REWIS, CHAD			Unit OCSO/FSV/INV/SID/DTF	Original Offense Jurisdiction OCSO
Forward to for approval OCSO/FSV/INV/SID/DTF				

Bond Set by LEO at Time of Arrest & Booking **\$0.00**

- None
- ROR
- Cash
- Pro

Bond Set by Judge None ROR/Sign

Cash PTR

Any

Pro

PtdIQ

Purge _____

SC _____

Return Court: CIRCUIT COURT: FELONY Date: 4/23/2013 Time: 15:30

Instructions: OKALOOSA COURTHOUSE COURTHOUSE ANNEX EXTENTION

[DISPOSITION]

<u>Disposition Type</u>	<u>Release Type</u>	<u>Other Desc</u>
<u>Release Date</u>	<u>Release Time</u>	<u>Release Officer</u>
		<u>Printed</u> <u>Printed By</u>
		No
<u>Released To</u>		
<u>Court Disposition Type</u>	<u>Court Disposition Description</u>	

[ADDITIONAL PERSONS]

WITNESS STATEMENT

Last	First	Middle	Title	R S	DOB
MEZA-CRUZ	LUIS	ALBERTO		W M	05/09/1992

COPY

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA
COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ARREST REPORT

REPORT NO: OCSO13ARR002668

I hereby swear (or affirm) that the facts established on this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

ID / SSN	MEZA-CRUZ	, LUIS	ALBERTO
COURT DISPOSITION:			
			(right index)

- No Bill / Petition
 Issue Warrant
 Prosecution Approved

 Signature of Assistant State Attorney Date

COPY

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY


OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ARREST REPORT

REPORT NO: OCSO13ARR002670

Jail Booking No	Offense No OCSO13OFF002561	Other No OCSO13CAD041227	OBTS
-----------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------	------

[SUSPECT]

Last First Middle Title Race Sex DOB Age Hgt Wgt
PETERS **TIMOTHY** **S** **W** **M** **10/18/1969** **43** **5'09"** **180**
Eyes Hair MNI Number SSN I.D. No. St Type OCA/Agency ID
HAZ **RED** **OCSO08MNI010165**  **AR** **193965**

Birth Location: City: CHICAGO County: State: IL Nation: UNITED STATES Citizenship: UNITED STATES

Address

1287 COLLEGE PARKWAY GULF BREEZE FL

Occupations (Current/Last Known is Listed First)

Business: SELF EMPLOYED, Job Title: , Entered: 10/9/2008

Suite:

Business: UNEMPLOYED, Job Title: , Entered: 9/21/2008

Suite:

Business: B STRONG ENT, Job Title: , Entered: 6/19/2008

Suite:

Aliases (Last, First Middle Title DOB)

* none found in MNI *

Street Names

* none found in MNI *

[INCIDENT INFORMATION]

Occurred Date Range: 3/15/2013 19:27 to 3/15/2013 19:27 Lat / Long
 No. Di Street Apt/Lot City ST Zip (GEO)
 11 SE EGLIN PW FORT WALTON BEAC FL 32548 2- 19 - PG50 - L-41

[CHARGES]

893.13.1a2

HALLUCINOGEN-SELL

HALLUCINOGEN-SELL SCHEDULE I OR III OR IV

Counts	Level	Degree	GOC	UCR	NCIC	AON	Bond Amount
1	Felony	Third	Principal	350A		3503	

[STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE / NARRATIVE]

On March 15, 2013, members of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Multi-Agency Drug Task Force conducted a buy bust operation for synthetic cannabinoids utilizing a confidential source, hereafter referred to as CS at Gina's 99 Cent Store located at 11 Eglin Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

The CS made controlled telephone calls and text messages to the Defendant, TIMOTHY S PETERS, via cellular device and arranged for the purchase of approximately 3,750 grams of suspected synthetic cannabinoids in exchange for \$8,175 U.S. Currency.

Prior to PETERS arrival the CS received an incoming text message from PETERS indicating that he was five (5) minutes away.

A short time later the CS positively identified a 2003 red in color Cadillac Escalade as belonging to PETERS as it pulled into the parking lot. As the Escalade arrived the CS positively identified the driver of the vehicle as PETERS.

PETERS had previously agreed to meet the CS at the service access located at the north side of the building. Upon PETERS arrival in the parking lot, PETERS observed a white van with (2) subjects seated inside. PETERS departed the parking lot and drove away. Within minutes PETERS called the CS's phone. The phone call went unanswered by the CS. At the direction of law enforcement the CS made a controlled phone call to PETERS. During this phone call PETERS told

COPY

ARREST REPORT

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO13ARR002670

the CS that he had observed the white van with occupants and thought they were suspicious. The CS dispelled PETERS alarm and PETERS agreed to return to the store. Law Enforcement conducted mobile surveillance on Peters Escalade and followed him back the business. Peters was observed by Law Enforcement parking at the service entrance. The CS exited the service entrance and met with PETERS at his vehicle. PETERS removed a diaper box from his vehicle and gave the box to the CS. PETERS entered the service entrance followed by the CS who was carrying the box.

The CS set the diaper box down outside his office and PETERS entered the office to complete the drug transaction. PETERS was subsequently taken into custody by law enforcement.

Law enforcement observed the diaper box to be taped closed with blue painter's tape. The box was bulging at the top and white plastic bags were plainly visible inside, foil packages consistent with appearance and packaging of synthetic cannabinoids. Upon closer inspection your Affiant observed foil packages labeled with the product name "Maui". The products observed were consistent with the same name brands and labeling of products obtained in earlier controlled purchases from the business that resulted in the presence of controlled substances per 893.03.

During a post-Miranda interview, PETERS, admitted his involvement in the sale, manufacture, and delivery of synthetic cannabinoids. PETERS admitted that he regularly brokers the sale of synthetic cannabinoids to the CS from another source of supply. PETERS stated he received a portion of the profits from each deal he brokered as payment for his services. PETERS acknowledged that Florida Attorney General, Pam Bondi, had recently issued bans on the substances that were used regularly in the manufacture of synthetic cannabinoids. PETERS stated he only brokered deals with the CS's store because all the previous clients stopped placing orders for fear of being targeted by law enforcement. PETERS stated he knew there was a "Gray area" when it came to the sale of these substances and stated it was "stupid" to be involved with them at all. PETERS stated he made a "bad decision" as it related to the practice of brokering the sale of these substances.

Based upon your Affiant's investigation, the Defendant, TIMOTHY S PETERS, did violate F.S.S. 893.13 (1 a2) Possession of a Controlled Substance (to wit: synthetic cannabinoids) with Intent to Distribute. This offense did occur in Okaloosa County where your affiant is a bonded, full time, sworn law enforcement officer.

I hereby swear (or affirm) that the facts established on this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature (Arresting Officer) _____ REWIS, CHAD _____ 084
Name ID/SSN

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 16 day of March A.D., 2013 by _____
who is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

Signature _____ Notary Public _____ LEO _____ CO

Commission No: _____ My Commission Expires _____

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ARREST REPORT

REPORT NO: OCSO13ARR002670

[PHYSICAL EVIDENCE] [NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE LISTED]

[ARREST INFORMATION]

Arrested 3/15/2013 19:27	Residency Within state	Injured None	Extent of Injury N/A	Resist No
		Arrested Prior Yes	Arrest Jurisdiction Unknown	Alcohol No
				Drugs No
No. 11	Di SE	Street EGLIN PW	A/L City FORT WALTON BEAC FL	ST Zip FL 32548
Arresting Officer 084 REWIS, CHAD		Unit OCSO/FSV/INV/SID/DTF	(GEO) 2 - 19 - PG50 - L-41	Officer Type
Reporting Officer 084 REWIS, CHAD		Unit OCSO/FSV/INV/SID/DTF	Original Offense Jurisdiction OCSO	
Forward to for approval OCSO/FSV/INV/SID/DTF				

Bond Set by LEO at Time of Arrest & Booking: \$0.00

() None
 () ROR
 () Cash
 () Pro

Bond Set by Judge: () None () ROR/Sign
 () Cash () PTR
 () Any
 () Pro
 () Pt:IQ

()Purge
 ()SC

Return Court: CIRCUIT COURT: CIVIL Date: 4/23/2013 Time: 15:30
 Instructions: OKALOOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE EXTENSION

[DISPOSITION]

<u>Disposition Type</u>	<u>Release Type</u>	<u>Other Desc</u>
<u>Release Date</u>	<u>Release Time</u>	<u>Release Officer</u>
		<u>Printed</u> <u>Printed By</u>
		No
<u>Released To</u>		
<u>Court Disposition Type</u>	<u>Court Disposition Description</u>	

[ADDITIONAL PERSONS]

WITNESS STATEMENT

Last PETERS	First TIMOTHY	Middle S	Title	R S DOB W M 10/18/1969
----------------	------------------	-------------	-------	---------------------------

COPY

