

March 31, 2014

### Two From New Mexico Charged With Trafficking Drugs

*St. Charles County*- The Office of Prosecuting Attorney Tim Lohmar announces that charges have been issued against Matthew Serrano, 38, and Vista Scott, 23. Serrano and Scott, both originally of New Mexico, were stopped on March 29 for speeding near Winghaven Boulevard. As an O'Fallon Police Officer approached the vehicle, he detected the scent of marijuana. A canine unit was dispatched and alerted to the presence of narcotics in the vehicle.

Upon a search of the vehicle, officers discovered 9 bundles of suspected marijuana weighing over 200 pounds. Serano and Scott were each charged with Accessory Trafficking in Drugs/Attempt to Traffic. Both Serrano and Scott have bond set at \$100,000 cash only. They will both appear in court on April 9, 2014.



Matthew Serrano



Vista Scott

## Probable Cause Statement

I, P.O. Matthew McCurdy #320 with O'Fallon Missouri Police Department, a law enforcement agency, state that the facts contained herein are true to my best knowledge and belief and that any false statements made are punishable by law.

1. On 03-29-2014, at Winghamen Boulevard and Hawk Run Drive in St. Charles County, MO, 63368

Matthew Serrano did: During the course of a traffic stop for a moving violation, have concealed in the rear portion of a rented moving van approximately 214.25lbs (97 kilograms) of Marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance. After noticing an odor of unburned Marijuana, Serrano provided Consent to Search of his entire vehicle (which he leased). The subsequent search revealed the consistent presence of the odor of raw marijuana inside the cab portion of the vehicle. Once the rear door was open, with a key offered by Serrano, the odor was found to be more intense. A Police K-9 responded to the scene indicated a positive alert of narcotics in the vehicle. Once the K-9 alerted, Serrano admitted to being in possession of approximately .25lbs of Marijuana which according to him was concealed inside of a couch inside the vehicle. A Probable Cause Search of the rear portion revealed two bundles of Marijuana which were concealed in the underside of an ottoman. A further search revealed seven additional bundles were located inside various furniture items in the truck. All of the bundles were weighed at approximately 214.25lbs (97 kilograms). With my training and experience of seven years as a Law Enforcement Officer, I recognized the contents of these bundles to be that of Marijuana. Serrano admitted to knowingly transporting the Marijuana from Las Vegas, Nevada to Cleveland, Ohio for the purposes of exchanging it for money.

2. DRUG CASES ONLY: The lab report confirmed the substance to be           N/A            
          N/A           and weighed           N/A           (if applicable).

3. I have reasonable grounds to believe that the defendant will not appear upon the summons or is a danger to the crime victim, the community or any other person because: Serrano lives in the State of New Mexico and had previously admitted to Trafficking quantities of Marijuana across the country several times prior.

Date: 03-29-2014

  
Signature

This is an approved form by the St. Charles County Prosecuting Attorney.

REVISED 04/03

## Probable Cause Statement

I, P.O. Matthew McCurdy #320 with O'Fallon Missouri Police Department, a law enforcement agency, state that the facts contained herein are true to my best knowledge and belief and that any false statements made are punishable by law.

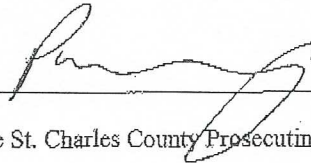
1. On 03-29-2014, at Winghamen Boulevard and Hawk Run Drive, in St. Charles County, MO, 63368

Vista Scott did: While acting as the passenger in a motor vehicle, concealed nine bundles of Marijuana, a Schedule I Controlled Substance, with an approximate weight of 214.25lbs (97 kilograms). After a Consensual Search of the vehicle, the nine bundles of Marijuana were located concealed in various furniture items within the cargo portion of the moving van. During an interview of Scott she admitted to traveling from Las Vegas, Nevada to Cleveland, Ohio with her fiancé who was operating the motor vehicle. Her fiancé admitted to knowingly trafficking the Marijuana with the purposes of exchanging it for money. It should be noted many female clothing items were located in close proximity to the Marijuana. With my training and experience as a Law Enforcement Officer, I recognized the contents of these bundles to be that of Marijuana.

2. DRUG CASES ONLY: The lab report confirmed the substance to be N/A  
N/A and weighed N/A (if applicable).

3. I have reasonable grounds to believe that the defendant will not appear upon the summons or is a danger to the crime victim, the community or any other person because: Scott currently lives in New Mexico and has a Criminal History which includes several Drug related arrests.

Date: 03-29-2014

 #320  
Signature

This is an approved form by the St. Charles County Prosecuting Attorney.

REVISED 04/03