



CHIEF OF POLICE
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NORTH KINGSTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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February 27, 2010

Press Release

For Immediate Release

On February 25, 2010 at approximately 2:45 am North Kingstown Police officers were dispatched to the Bestway Convenience Store located at 1085 Tower Hill Road to investigate the report of a suspicious subject who was wearing a bandanna and ski mask. Upon arrival the police observed that the Blue Rhino propane storage unit had been broken into.

After describing the suspect to police, two citizens gave police a description of the vehicle that the suspect used to flee the scene. While at the scene an officer observed the suspect vehicle traveling north bound on Tower Hill Road. The officer attempted to stop the suspect vehicle when the vehicle accelerated west on West Allenton Road. The officer followed the vehicle until it was determined that road conditions were not safe to pursue the suspect vehicle.

A short time later another officer located the suspect vehicle in the area of Ten Rod Road where a felony vehicle stop was conducted. The suspect, Howard L. Bentley, was taken into custody. Police located four (4) Blue Rhino propane tanks in the trunk of Bentley's vehicle.

Upon further investigation by the North Kingstown Police Detective Division, it was learned that Howard Bentley had other stolen Blue Rhino propane tanks located at his residence at 170 Hamilton Allenton Road. A search warrant was completed for Bentley's residence where Blue Rhino tanks were located along with approximately three and a quarter (3 ¼) pounds of marijuana. Also seized in the search was equipment used for growing marijuana.

The Department of Environmental Management was contacted as there were numerous deer carcasses' located on the property. DEM seized these items along with other items used for poaching deer. Charges will be filed by the DEM upon completion of their investigation.

Charges:

Howard M. Bentley (36) 170 Hamilton Allenton Road North Kingstown, RI

- Manufacturing/Possession/Delivery of Schedule I/II (Felony) RIGL 21-28-4.01-A2A
- Possession of Marijuana-Subsequent Offense (Felony) RIGL 21-28-4.01-C/B
- Receiving Stolen Goods (Misdemeanor) RIGL 11-41-2
- Weapons Other Than Firearms Prohibited (Misdemeanor) RIGL 11-47-42
- High Speed Pursuit (Misdemeanor) RIGL 31-27-4.1
- Driving Under the Influence (Misdemeanor) RIGL 31-27-2-D1
- Refusal to Submit to Chemical Test (Violation) RIGL 31-27-2.1

Howard Bentley was arraigned on four criminal charges on February 25, 2010 at Fourth Division District Court. Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) Surety Bail was set, he was held at the ACI as a Superior Court Violator. Bentley will be arraigned on drug charges on Tuesday March 2, 2010.

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