

MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT



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News Release

[Stephen Beecher](#), Chief of Police

[Capt. Michael T. Spitzer](#), Operations Commander

[Lt. Craig Austenberg](#), Support Services Division

[Lt. Philip J. Lucivero](#), Patrol Division

[Lt. Michael Cordileone](#), Communications & Records Division

[Lt. Luis Sanchez](#), Investigations Division

[Cpl. Marianne Wurtemberg](#), Public Information Officer

[Sgt. Carl Mase](#), Alternate PIO

Approval:
078

The following has been authorized for immediate release to the public. Any requests for additional information should be made to the Public Information Officer or a Staff Officer.

Members of the news media are asked to respect the privacy of crime victims.

*** See narratives for further information ***

Key: (A) Arrested (V) Victim (W) Witness (O) Other (D) Driver (JM) Juvenile Male (JF) Juvenile Female (ROR) Released on Own Recognizance (ROB) Released on Bail (RTP) Released to Parent (HRMC) Hackettstown Regional Medical Center (SCH) St. Clare's Hosp. (MMC) Morristown Medical Center (MCCF) Morris Co. Correctional Facility (MCJDC) Morris Co. Juv. Detention Center

Incident/Event:	Eluding, DWI, Refusal to Submit to Breath Testing
Date:	December 26, 2017
Location:	Rt. 206 Flanders, NJ
Investigated by:	Cpl. Chad Rossy
Involved:	Mr. Thomas C. Ratliff (A), 50 YO M, Budd Lake, NJ

On December 26, 2017 at 12:03 am, Cpl. Rossy was on routine patrol when he observed a 2008 Toyota traveling north on Rt. 206 at a high rate of speed. As Cpl. Rossy closed the gap between his vehicle and the Toyota, the Toyota made an abrupt left turn onto Dakesdale Rd., traveling through the red traffic signal, without utilizing a turn signal. The Toyota then made an abrupt right turn onto Jewel Drive, traveling through the neighborhood at a high rate of speed. Cpl. Rossy located the Toyota stopped on Arrow Court, at the cul-de-sac. The driver was not with the vehicle, having walked away into the woods adjacent to the roadway. Cpl. Rossy searched the immediate area, and was able to locate the driver as he walked out of the woods. The driver was identified as Mr. Ratliff. As Cpl. Rossy spoke with Mr. Ratliff he detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage, and Mr. Ratliff appeared to be impaired. Mr. Ratliff was placed under arrest and transported to police headquarters. Mr. Ratliff refused to submit to chemical breath testing, and was charged with Eluding, DWI, Failure to Submit to Chemical Breath Testing, Reckless Driving, Consumption of an Alcoholic Beverage in a Motor Vehicle, Open Container in a Motor Vehicle, Careless Driving, Speeding, Failure to Observe Traffic Signal, Failure to Signal Turn, Failure to Yield to Emergency Vehicles, Obstruction of Vision, Hazardous Tires, Unlicensed Driver, Failure to Exhibit Documents, and Littering. Mr. Ratliff was lodged in the Morris County Correctional Facility pending a court hearing.

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Incident/Event:	Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Paraphernalia
Date:	December 27, 2017
Location:	International Drive South Flanders, NJ
Investigated by:	Officer Tyler Mullooly
Involved:	Mr. Joseph K. Aviles Jr. (A), 27 YO M, Rahway, NJ

On December 27, 2017 at 1:50 am, Officer Mullooly was on routine patrol when he observed a 2004 Volvo travel from Rt. 206 onto International Drive South. A random inquiry of the Volvo's registration showed that the registered owner had a suspended driver's license. Officer Mullooly initiated a motor vehicle stop of the Volvo in the area of Chili's. Officer Mullooly made contact with the driver, who was identified as the registered owner, Mr. Aviles. As Officer Mullooly spoke with Mr. Aviles, he detected the odor of marijuana coming from the interior of the vehicle. Mr. Aviles was asked to exit the vehicle, and a subsequent search yielded a baggie of suspected marijuana. Mr. Aviles was placed under arrest, and transported to police headquarters. Mr. Aviles was charged with Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Paraphernalia, Driving While Suspended, and Improper Display of Plated. Mr. Aviles was released pending a court hearing.

All parties listed above are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.