

JOPLIN

POLICE

"Serving With Pride Since 1873"

303 E. 3rd Street Joplin, MO. 64801-2274

Phone: 417-623-3131 Fax: 417-625-4733

Jason B. Burns
Chief of Police



Date: August 14, 2015

Origin: Department PIO

Contact: Capt. Higginbotham

Phone: 417-623-3131

News Release

On August 14, 2015 at 3:54PM a detective and an officer assigned to the Joplin Police Department Special Investigations Unit conducted an investigation at St. Louis and Campbell Parkway, on the south side of Park Apartments. The special Investigations Unit is tasked with addressing career criminals and serious crimes that diminish the quality of life for the citizens of Joplin.

The two officers observed two males in the parking lot hanging in and around a vehicle for an extended period of time and made observations that led them to believe the subjects were involved in the illegal sale of narcotics. Once the two males were contacted, the passenger gave a false name and was ultimately arrested for city charges of obstruction and an outstanding resisting arrest warrant. A Joplin Police K9 then arrived at the scene to assist. The driver, identified as Tyretha Dashon Smith III, 21 years old from Joplin, was found to be in possession of a stolen 9mm Taurus Handgun which was reported stolen in Joplin on July 28, 2015. Smith was also found to be in possession of approximately 123.5 grams of crystal methamphetamine and packaging to assist in the distribution of the substance.

Tyretha Dashon Smith III was transported to the Joplin City Jail on the narcotic and stolen gun charges. The Jasper County Prosecutor's Office has filed the Class A Felony Charge of Trafficking Drugs in the First Degree with a \$25,000 bond plus \$5,000 cash. At this time Smith is still in custody in the Joplin City Jail.

Sgt. Trevor Duncan

Joplin Police Department



Tyretha Dashon Smith III