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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, DATE APRIL 20, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

Armed Robbery of Marijuana Dispensary

Durango, CO: On April 19, 2017, at about 8:23 p.m., officers from the Durango Police Department were dispatched to an armed robbery in progress at The Greenery, which is a local marijuana dispensary. The Greenery is located in Bodo Industrial Park at 208 Parker Avenue.

Officers from the Durango Police Department and deputies from the La Plata County Sheriff's Office responded to the call. They were advised of a suspect description and given information that the suspect was armed with an AR-15 rifle. The suspect had fled the business on foot, allegedly wearing a full face mask, dark colored hoodie, and gloves. A delivery driver, who was dropping off products at the business, confronted the armed robber at the door of the business. This allowed employees of the business time to get into a secured portion of the building. The delivery driver was able to retreat outside the building. The robbery suspect was able to get a large amount of marijuana that the delivery driver had just dropped off.

Officers and deputies arrived to the area very quickly. A deputy with the La Plata County Sheriff's Office observed a male subject matching the description at another business a short distance from where the robbery occurred. The subject was loading a duffle bag into the trunk of a black 2012 Hyundai Sonata with New Mexico license plates. As the deputy started to approach the subject, he fled on foot into an undeveloped area that has heavy vegetation. Officers and the deputy approached the car to make sure no one else was inside. They observed a large military style duffle bag in the trunk. They could smell the strong odor of marijuana and could see the butt end of an AR-15 rifle. A K9 unit from the La Plata County Sheriff's Office was deployed to assist in a search for the suspect who fled on foot.

The K9 unit located the suspect, and he was taken into custody. The suspect was identified as 29-year-old Alexander Johnson from Chandler, Arizona. Johnson was taken to the Durango Police Department where he was interviewed by detectives. Johnson confessed to the armed robbery and advised that he acted alone. Johnson advised that he graduated high school in Farmington, New Mexico, and he has ties to this area. The police department is continuing this investigation, and we do not believe that anyone else was involved at this time.

Alexander Johnson was booked into the La Plata County Jail for Aggravated Robbery and Possession of Weapons by Previous Offenders. His bond was set at \$75,000.

Note to media: Photo available upon request.

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