

ATTACHMENT : A

Seizure : Regina Cheng 1-10-2009

\$132,284.00 US Currency

On January 7, 2009 at approximately 7:15 pm a Gold Toyota Siena minivan passed my stationary position at the 39 milepost on I-75 traveling south bound. I observed the rear female passenger turn completely in her seat to see if we were pulling out after the vehicle. We pulled from our stationary position and paced the van doing 77 mph in a 70 mph zone. I initiated his emergency equipment and stopped the vehicle at the 37 mp southbound on I-75. Agent Fredericks approached the vehicle and made contact with the driver who provided a Tn DL identifying him as Baba Toure . Mr. Toure also provided a rental agreement for the minivan. Agent Fredericks asked Mr. Toure to step to the rear of the vehicle so he could explain the reason for the stop. When Mr. Toure arrived at the rear of the vehicle Agent Fredericks asked to pat him down for officer safety and he agreed. As he removed items from his pocket and he continuously dropped items in a nervous manner. Agent Fredericks informed Mr. Toure that he was paced doing 77 mph in a 70 mph zone, but that he would probably not be writing him a ticket in an attempt to lower his nervousness . Mr. Toure informed Agent Fredericks that he was traveling to Atlanta to visit family and that his cousin was with him. He also stated to Agent Fredericks that that they would be staying in Atlanta and returning to Knoxville tomorrow. Mr. Toure then stated that they were going to Louisiana. While speaking with Mr. Toure he stated that he had worked at Alcoa.

Agent Fredericks approached the front seat passenger and he provided him with a TN DL identifying himself as Ali Niangado. Mr. Niangado stated that they were traveling to Louisiana and that he was traveling with his friend who had asked him to help drive. Mr. Niangado informed Agent Fredericks that he was a student and that he is currently not employed. Agent Frdericks also retrieved an Ontario DL from a rear passenger identifying her as Miss. Regina Cheng. Agent Fredericks then returned to the vehicle to begin checking DL status and perform other computer checks. While waiting for returns for these Agent Fredericks again spoke with Mr. Toure about his travel plans to Atlanta and Louisiana as his rental agreement was for one day and the vehicle was due for return on January 8, 2009. Mr. Toure stated that he was driving through Atlanta Ga. then to Louisiana and that he would be returning to Knoxville tomorrow in order to have the rental vehicle returned. Agent Fredericks informed Mr. Toure that we have a problem with illegal contraband being smuggled on I-75 and asked if there was anything illegal in the vehicle. Mr. Toure replied, "Not that I know of." Agent Fredericks asked Mr. Toure if there were any large amounts of US Currency, illegal narcotics, and/or any weapons, to which he replied, "I don't have anything." As he touched his chest, Agent Fredericks asked Mr. Toure if he was responsible for everything in the vehicle and he stated that he was not. Agent Fredericks requested consent to search the vehicle and Mr. Toure who was the renter of the vehicle provided verbal consent.

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Agent Fredericks approached the front seat passenger, Mr. Niangado and asked if there was anything illegal in the vehicle such as large amounts of US currency, to which he replied, "Not on me." He was then asked about illegal narcotics to which he replied, "No" and/or any weapons to which he said he did not know about. When Mr. Niangado was asked if he was responsible for everything in the vehicle and he responded, "Who, Me? This is not my vehicle." He informed me that he was only responsible for items and showed Agent Fredericks a black shaving kit stating that it was all that was his.

Agent Fredericks asked the rear passenger, Regina Cheng if there was anything illegal in the vehicle and she said no, she was then asked her about large amounts of US currency and she responded, "I have large amounts of US currency." and stated that she had \$30,000, then pointed to a black gift bag on the rear floor board beside her seat and then stated that she did not know what was in that bag, She stated that she was delivering it for her brother. She informed Agent Fredericks that he brother was in the antiquing business. Miss. Cheng also stated that she is currently a student and is not working. When I asked her about illegal narcotics and weapons she informed me there was not either and that we could search.

A free hand search of the vehicle and then spoke with Miss. Cheng again. She informed me the \$30,000 was located in her black "Juicy" bag and the other gift type bag was her brothers which she was supposed to deliver to someone. She informed me that I could search it as well.

I located approximately \$30,000 US in her black "Juicy" bag and approximately \$100,000.00 US Currency in a black gift type bag.

At that point all occupants of the vehicle were detained and transported back to the drug task force office for further investigation, All occupants were advised of there Miranda Rights and all occupants agreed to speak to investigators without an attorney being present.

Lt. Don Williams and Agent Eric Almond responded to the DTF office and conducted an interview where it was determined that both Mr. Toure and Mr. Niangado's role was to provide transportation as a taxi type service and that both parties had no direct connection with the currency .

Regina Cheng gave detailed information to DTF investigators and stated the currency she had in her purse and in the gift bag were proceeds from the sale and delivery of illegal narcotics including ecstasy and cocaine, Miss. Cheng stated that she was to go to Houston Tx to a hotel with the currency and await further instructions from her contact who she only knew as " James " . Miss. Cheng stated that on a previous trip she was instructed to pick ecstasy from a warehouse in Buffalo Ny and transport it to a warehouse in Houston Tx her contact "James" stated to Mrs. Cheng the amount of ecstasy was approximately 200,000 dosage units of ecstasy and it was to be taken to a storage unit in Houston and she was provided a key and access code to the warehouse and that the ecstasy was still in the

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warehouse as she was given direction to travel back to Ny to retrieve the currency that I located in the gift bag from a Vietnamese male and then return back to Houston for further instructions. At that point we made contact with authorities in Houston Tx and gave them details on the case and Miss. Cheng agreed to travel with us to Houston to meet with the Houston Tx Metro Narcotics Division to retrieve the large amount of ecstasy. We arrived in Houston on 1-9-09 and met with Houston Metro Narcotics and were able to identify the storage location and recover the ecstasy. We were able to make an additional arrest in Houston and recover an additional large amount of ecstasy in Houston. The weight of the ecstasy was 150lbs and estimated to be 216,000 dosage units. The final count of the currency that was located in Miss. Cheng's possession was \$132,284.00 this currency will be seized as well as a Kodak digital camera, Miss Cheng was given notice of seizure at the DTF office when we returned from Houston Tx on 1-10-2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. J.', with a horizontal line extending to the right.