



QUARTZSITE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Post Office Box 2812 | 305 North Plymouth Avenue

Quartzsite, Arizona 85346 – 2812

Phone (928) 927-4644 | Fax (928) 927-5252

qpd@ci.quartzsite.az.us

August 28, 2015

During the evening hours of August 19, 2015, Quartzsite Police Department (QPD) Officer Keynan Weltha was conducting proactive traffic enforcement on State Route 95 in the Town of Quartzsite. After observing a traffic infraction, Officer Weltha stopped a vehicle at Mile Post 113 on SR 95 north of Town. Once stopped, the driver of the passenger vehicle was acting suspicious and nervous. The driver identified himself as **Jahaziel Contreras** and the front seat passenger was identified as **Cesar Aldana-Lopez**. A computer check of the driver Contreras indicated his State of Nevada Driver's License had expired. The passenger Aldana-Lopez admitted to being the owner of the vehicle and had a valid Commercial Driver's License. QPD Officer Weltha was told by both of them that they had been driving for a long time, starting in Sonora, Mexico to Nogales, Arizona, before being stopped by Officer Weltha north of Quartzsite.

The driver Contreras and passenger Aldana-Lopez admitted to and were found to be in possession of \$20,079.00 in US Currency stuffed inside their shoes and shocks. Driver Contreras told Officer Weltha the large sum of money belonged to Aldana-Lopez. They admitted to not declaring the US Currency while crossing into the United States through the border from Mexico.

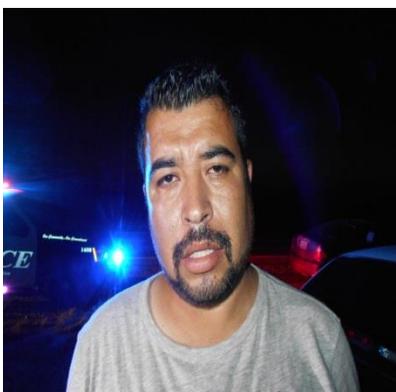
This violates State, Federal laws and reporting requirements to include but not limited to Money Laundering. Both suspects Contreras and Aldana-Lopez were arrested and charged with the Arizona's Money Laundering statues along with driving with an expired driver's license and a civil traffic violation. Also, Officers located and seized cell phones, bank documents, and the vehicle for evidence. Suspects were booked into the La Paz County Jail and the vehicle was towed to the QPD impound lot. The US Currency, cell phones, bank information, and other evidentiary documents were turned over to the La Paz County Task Force.

Chief Ernie Renfro of the Quartzsite Police Department would like to thank our law enforcement partners from the La Paz County Sheriff's Office and Task Force for their expert assistance with this case.

Jahaziel Contreras



Cesar Aldana-Lopez



The Quartzsite PD is dedicated to working with the community and other law enforcement agencies to protect our citizens and community.

Ernie Renfro

Chief of Police

Town of Quartzsite

Office: (928) 927-4644

erenfro@ci.quartzsite.az.us