



SHREVEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3/4/25

Traffic Stop Leads to Arrest and Seizure of Narcotics and Illegal Firearms



Joseph Thomas

On February 28, 2025, at approximately 10:01 p.m., Shreveport Police Department officers observed a vehicle traveling northbound on Jewella Avenue make an abrupt left turn onto Armstrong Place without signaling. Officers also noted that the vehicle had an improperly displayed license plate.

After initiating a traffic stop, officers requested all occupants to exit the vehicle. For officer safety, they were detained and placed in the back of marked patrol units. While interacting with the occupants, officers detected a strong odor of marijuana, leading to a probable cause search of the vehicle.

During the search, officers discovered a backpack containing multiple clear plastic bags filled with suspected marijuana, several clear plastic bags containing suspected THC edibles, a digital scale, and additional Ziploc bags commonly used for packaging and distributing controlled dangerous substances. Additionally, officers found two AR-style pistols under the rear left passenger seat. One of the firearms had been illegally modified with an Auto Sear, a device that enables fully automatic fire. Under federal law, this modification classifies the firearm as a machine gun, making its possession illegal without proper registration.

As a result of the investigation, officers arrested Joseph Thomas on multiple charges, including:

- Illegal carrying of a weapon
- Possession of a machine gun
- Illegal possession of a handgun by a juvenile
- Distribution of narcotics

The Shreveport Police Department remains committed to ensuring the safety of our community by actively enforcing laws related to illegal firearms and narcotics distribution.