

# Ft. Pierce Police Department

## News Release

11/12/09



**R. Sean Baldwin**

*Chief of Police*

920 S. U.S. #1

Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

### **Police and DEA arrest couple for operating a grow house**

**FORT PIERCE** – The Fort Pierce Police Department working in conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration seized approximately \$200,000 worth of marijuana plants from a south beach grow house Thursday afternoon.

Michael Canty, 44, and Tiffany Canty, 32, were arrested in connection with the operation, investigators believed began in September. The couple faces three charges: cultivation of marijuana, possession of marijuana with the intent to sell and possession of paraphernalia.

The couple was renting the residence, located at 1131 Granada Avenue. Investigators removed 132 live marijuana plants in various stages of growth on the first floor of the two-story home. Based on the size and maturity of each plant, Sergeant Donald Christman estimated the plants were capable of yielding about 60 pounds of marijuana.

Christman said the operation was consistent with other grow house operations where the basement walls were lined with reflective boarding and had high-powered lights and fans. Additionally, the operation had its own ventilation system and an elaborate irrigation system, Sgt. Christman said.

The couple, who admitted they set up the operation to earn extra money, was booked into the St. Lucie County Jail.

Sgt. Christman said investigators have not determined if this is a part of a larger operation. The investigation is continuing.

###



Photo 1



Photo 2



Michael Carty



Tiffany Carty

Photo 1: Detective Henry Kantorski and Detective Roberto Sarmiento remove some of the marijuana plants seized during the search of the home located at 1131 Granada Avenue.

Photo 2: Detective Joseph Alves records 132 marijuana plants and other the evidence collected during the investigation.

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