



CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748
CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT, 645 PIERCE STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
TELEPHONE (727) 562-4242

POLICE DEPARTMENT

RELEASE 09-060

April 29, 2009

Contact: Elizabeth Watts

Public Safety PIO

elizabeth.watts@myclearwater.com

(727) 562-4333

CLEARWATER POLICE NOTICE UNUSUAL ACTIVITY AT MOTEL AND ARREST TEEN FOR TRAFFICKING CRACK COCAINE

WHO: Sharma Thomas (Arrested)
B/M DOB 5-17-92
1259 Eldridge Street
Clearwater, Fla.
CHARGE: Trafficking in Crack Cocaine (Felony)

WHAT: Trafficking in Crack Cocaine
SEIZED: 40 grams of crack cocaine

WHEN: April 29, 2009
1:30 a.m.

WHERE: Budget Inn
1471 Court Street #121
Clearwater, Fla.

WHY: Clearwater Police noticed a high volume of foot traffic at the Budget Inn while patrolling the area. Officers determined room #121 as the destination for an unusual amount of visitors. Officers made contact with the occupants in the room. There were several people in the room, including one juvenile, Sharma Thomas. Thomas attempted to conceal 40 grams of crack cocaine. He was arrested without incident and transported to Pinellas County Juvenile Assessment Center (PJAC). The management was notified and the other people were evicted from the room.

The motel is located in the East Gateway area. The Clearwater Police Department provides additional officers in the East Gateway area to reduce drug dealing, prostitution and street crimes. The additional officers are funded through an agreement with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

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