

Joint Drug Investigation Leads to Arrests for Felony Drug Offenses

The Delaware State Police have arrested 25-year-old **Maddyan Ata**, 34-year-old **Mohamed Lamar**, both from Magnolia, Delaware, and 20-year-old **Alex Gomez-McDowell** of Dover, Delaware for felony drug offenses following a joint drug investigation with Delaware Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement, and the DEA.

Beginning in June of 2025, detectives from the Kent County Drug Unit and Delaware Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (DATE) began investigating Ali Baba Smoke Shop, located at 2131 South Dupont Highway in Dover, and Liberty Happy Gas Station, located at 50 West Birdie Lane in Magnolia for suspected large-scale distribution of drugs. Throughout the investigation, detectives identified Maddyan Ata, Mohamed Lamar, and Alex Gomez-McDowell as the suspects and obtained warrants for their arrest. On **March 4, 2026**, detectives executed search warrants at the smoke shop and gas station that led to the discovery of the following items:

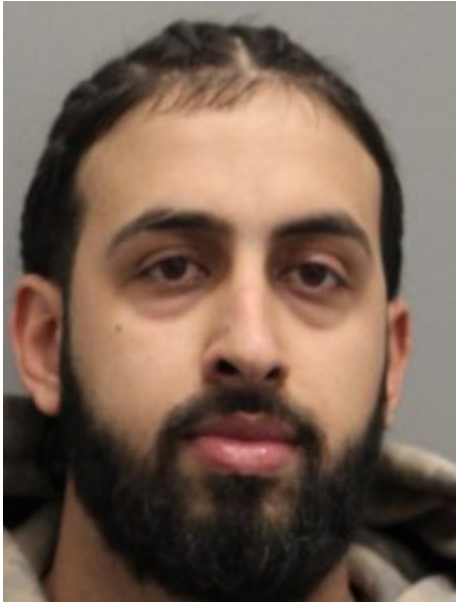
Ali Baba Smoke Shop

- Approximately 255 pounds of marijuana and marijuana products (THC vapes)
- Drug paraphernalia related to the illegal sale and distribution of marijuana
- Fake urine used to mask drug use and defeat drug testing
- Approximately 1,818g of OPIA 7-hydroxymitragynine pills

Liberty Happy Gas Station

- 130 Viagra pills
- 2 digital scales
- Drug paraphernalia

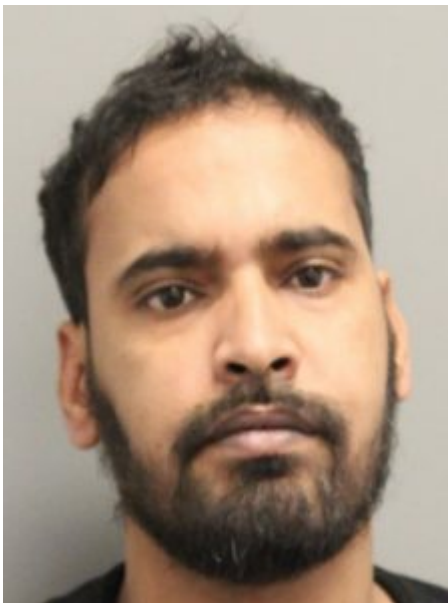
Ata was taken into custody at Probation and Parole without incident and taken to Troop 3. He was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 2, and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on a \$249,300 cash bond.



- Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance, Tier 3 (Felony) – 2 counts

- Possession of a Controlled Substance, Tier 3 (Felony) – 2 counts
 - Distribute, Deliver, Sell, Possession with Intent to Distribute a Drug Masking Product (Felony)
 - Maintaining a Drug Property (Felony)
 - Criminal Nuisance Conduct or Maintain Any Premise, Place, Resort for Unlawful Conduct
 - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
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Lamar was taken into custody at Liberty Happy Gas Station without incident and taken to Troop 3. He was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 2, and released on a \$5,000 unsecured bond.



- Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance (Felony) – 2 counts
 - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
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Gomez-McDowell was taken into custody at Ali Baba Smoke Shop without incident and taken to Troop 3. He was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 2, and released on a \$10,000 unsecured bond.



- Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance (Felony) – 4 counts

Detectives ask anyone with information about this investigation to contact the Kent County Drug Unit by calling 302-698-8452. Information may also be provided by sending a private Facebook message to the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.