

**OPELOUSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE**

From: The Opelousas Police Dept. (Chief Perry Gallow)

January 30, 2012

Opelousas Police arrest a Sunset man on drug charges.

According to Chief Perry Gallow, The Opelousas Police Department arrested Joseph M. Wheeler age 28 of 383 Budd St. Sunset La. 70584 on the charges of Possession w/intent to Distribute Schedule II Drugs, Possession w/intent to Distribute Schedule I Drugs, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Proceeds derived from Drug Sales and Speeding 84mph in a 70mph zone. According to Chief Gallow; Wheeler was stopped by the Opelousas Pd. K-9 Unit for a traffic violation on I-49. Upon Sgt. Cortez approach on the vehicle he could smell a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. During a pat down of Wheeler Sgt. Cortez located a knife a large amount of crack cocaine, a large amount of marijuana and \$1095.00 on Wheelers person. A subsequent search also revealed that Wheeler had a large amount of Marijuana, crack cocaine, a weigh scale and plastic bags to package the drugs in his vehicle. Joseph Wheeler was transported to the Opelousas City Jail and booked in on the drug charges. Wheelers last drug arrest was back in 2005. Joseph Wheeler is currently being held in the Opelousas City Jail on a \$36,000 bond. The estimated street value of the drugs confiscated totaled about \$2000. Anyone with information on any criminal activity within the city limits of Opelousas is asked to call the Opelousas Police Department at 337-948-2500.

Contact Public Information Officer Darren Zachary to obtain any additional Information @337-351-1930.