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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLICE RAID EXTENSIVE MARIJUANA GROWING OPERATION

WAKE FOREST, NC – June 9, 2012 – The Wake Forest Police Department’s IMPACT Unit discovered a sophisticated indoor marijuana growing operation Friday while executing a narcotics search warrant at 1125 Chamberwell Ave.

During the search, police seized approximately 338 marijuana plants weighing more than 45 pounds and over \$7,200 in US currency.

Adult marijuana plants can produce as much as two pounds of marijuana and each plant has an estimated value of \$2,500. By employing this formula, police estimate the street value of the 338 seized marijuana plants to be approximately \$845,000.

Officers also recovered additional marijuana packaged for sale and delivery, along with a significant assortment of drug manufacturing equipment, including high intensity lights, power invertors, thermal greenhouses, drying racks, irrigation supplies, fans, and humidifiers.

Police charged Caimen Leigh Ruff, 37, and Mitchell James Jareo IV, 49, both of 1125 Chamberwell Ave., Wake Forest, with trafficking marijuana by possession (Level 1, greater than 10 pounds, less than 50 pounds), trafficking marijuana by manufacture, possession with intent to sale and deliver marijuana, maintaining a dwelling for the sale and manufacture of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Additional charges could follow pending further investigation.

According to police, Ruff and Jareo had constructed additional rooms inside the upstairs portion of the residence to accommodate the drug operation, which included electrical wiring and ventilation systems that led to the attic.



Both Ruff and Jareo are being held in the Wake County Detention Center each under \$201,000 bond. Their first court appearance is scheduled for Monday, June 11, at 9 a.m.

This case remains under investigation and there is no additional information to release at this time.

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For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Bill Crabtree at (919) 435-9421 or bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov.