



BURKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Sheriff Banks Hinceman
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION
PRESS RELEASE

Name: Thomas Craig Harden
DOB: 04/06/1983 **Age:** 40
Race: White **Sex:** Male
Address: Homeless
Charges: F- Simple Possession of Methamphetamine
F- Possession of Firearm by Felon
F -Trafficking Methamphetamine >200gr.
F- Maintain Dwelling/Vehicle for Controlled Substance
Bond: Current -NO BOND
Bond 10/13/23- \$40,000 Secured
Court Date: District: 11/02/2023



Details:

On October 13, 2023, the Burke County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations/Narcotics Division was conducting an undercover surveillance operation in the Summers Road /Drexel Road area, after numerous complaints by citizens in the community.

While conducting undercover stationary patrol, investigators observed Thomas Craig Harden operating a motor vehicle with a fictitious tag. Investigators stopped the vehicle and during the course of the investigation, a NC State K-9 was requested, and probable cause was developed to conduct a search. During the search, investigators discovered approximately 6.5 grams +/- of methamphetamine, an AK-47 semi-automatic rifle, a semi-automatic 9 mm pistol, and several boxes of ammunition. Harden was arrested and arraigned at the Burke County Magistrate's Office for Simple Possession of a Scheduled II Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine) and Possession of a Firearm by Felon. Harden received a \$40,000 secured bond and a subsequent court date of 10/16/23.

On October 31, 2023, the Burke County Criminal Investigations/Narcotics Division was conducting undercover surveillance operations in the Connelly Springs area after receiving several complaints about narcotics transactions in the area. While conducting undercover stationary surveillance, investigators familiar with Harden observed him operating a motor vehicle in the Hwy 70/Old 70 Loop area of Connelly Springs.

Investigators conducted a traffic stop and developed probable cause to search the vehicle. During the search, investigators discovered approximately 260 grams +/- (over half a pound) of Methamphetamine located in the trunk of the vehicle. This controlled substance was found individually bagged with digital scales and additional plastic bags. Harden was arrested and arraigned at the Burke County Magistrate's Office for Trafficking Methamphetamine >200 gr. and Maintaining a Vehicle for Controlled Substances. Harden was arraigned and no bond was set pursuant to judicial review.

Agencies Involved:

Burke County Sheriff's Office
NCDAC State K-9

November 1, 2023



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