

# HARRISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*SHERIFF*

MATT HALEY

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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**For Immediate Release**

On August 18, 2025, Harrison County Sheriff Matt Haley announced multiple arrests related to the seizures of large quantities of cocaine. On August 14, 2025, Hector Rodriguez-Valdez (32-years-old), Bryan Rodriguez-Valdez (26-years-old), and Raul Quijas-Aguero (26-years-old) of Mexico were arrested for federal drug trafficking charges. On August 15, 2025, Christopher Gill was arrested for felony drug trafficking charges in an unrelated incident.

On August 14, 2025, at approximately 10:12 AM, a Deputy from the Harrison County Sheriff's Office Criminal Interdiction Division conducted a traffic stop on a black Chevrolet Van for a traffic violation at the 28 mile-marker of Interstate 10 East in Gulfport. The Deputy contacted the driver, identified as Hector Rodriguez-Valdez, and developed suspicions of possible drug trafficking. A narcotic detecting canine responded and alerted to the presence of narcotics in the vehicle. A subsequent search of his vehicle revealed an improvised compartment built within lumber inside the van that contained (118) pounds of cocaine.

The Department of Homeland Security Investigations was notified of the incident. Hector Rodriguez-Valdez, and two passengers, Bryan Rodriguez-Valdez, and Raul Quijas-Aguero, were arrested and charged with federal drug trafficking charges. All suspects were transported and booked into the Harrison County Jail held without bond pending federal judicial proceedings. The United States Border Patrol also placed federal immigration holds on the aforementioned subjects.

Additionally, on an unrelated incident on August 15, 2025, Harrison County's Criminal Interdiction Patrol Division made a separate traffic stop at the 35-mile marker on Interstate 10 East in Gulfport. Deputies made contact with Christopher Gill (47-year-old) of Florida, a subsequent search of his luggage revealed 4.4 pounds of cocaine. Gill was arrested on Trafficking charges. Judge Fountain issued a \$250,000 bond. The DEA was notified of the incident.

Approved for Release:

Haley, Sheriff, Harrison County, Mississippi