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When Driving Without a Front License Plate in Darien, Don't Be Doing This as Well

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If you drive without a front license plate in Darien, a police officer may stop you. If you're smoking marijuana in the car at some time before the traffic stop, the officer may well smell it, resulting in a fine.

And if you've got even more marijuana stashed somewhere in the car — such as more than half an ounce under a child's safety seat in the back seat — then police K-9 Kenny may indicate it's there if the dog is brought in for a "free air sniff" outside the vehicle. Then police may find it when they search the car.

Darien police say all that happened to a 27-year-old Rowayton man whose vehicle was stopped near the intersection of Tokeneke Road and Driftway Lane.

Police say an officer saw the vehicle (make and model not provided) being driven south on Old Kings Highway South at about 5:07 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 29. The driver said he'd just finished smoking a

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marijuana cigarette, and the remains were in a car ashtray.

A total of 22 grams of a green, leafy substance that tested positive for THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, was found in a clear plastic baggie, police said.

The driver was charged with possession of more than half an ounce of marijuana and driving without the required front license plate. He was issued a misdemeanor summons ordering him to appear Sept. 8 in state Superior Court in Stamford.