



## **News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office**

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**March 25, 2009**

### **Deputies Discover Midtown Pot Farm**



**Robert Colio**



**Yordaniz Ruiz**

Detectives in the Sheriff's Office Narcotics and Street Crimes Bureaus say a midtown home has been a front for a marijuana farm. A man and his son-in-law have been charged.

About 6 p.m. last night, Deputies raided 142 Rembert. Robert Colio, 52, was arrested after Sheriff's detectives found an elaborate marijuana growing lab in an attached garage. Twenty-six (26) plants, three to four feet high, were supported by bamboo sticks. Deputies say the lab had special lights and a watering system.

Detectives found Twenty-five (25) more plants about eight inches high growing in the basement. The marijuana is worth about a quarter of a million dollars. Memphis Light, Gas and Water officials are also involved in the investigation. They say electricity for the lab had been illegally wired to bypass the home's electric meter.



Deputies dismantled the lab and seized Colio's 2004 SUV, several electronics, \$260 and a pistol. About 7 p.m., Sheriff's Deputies raided the home of Colio's son-in-law at 3651 Wilshire.

Yordaniz Ruiz, 33, was arrested after investigators found documents associated with the drug enterprise on Rembert. A Sheriff's K-9 dog also detected drugs had been in Ruiz's vehicle parked in the driveway. No drugs were in the van but Deputies found two dozen bamboo sticks that matched the ones supporting the marijuana plants at his father-in-law's home on Rembert.

Ruiz was charged with Manufacture/Deliver/Sell of a Controlled Substance. Robert Colio faces that charge and Possession of a Firearm during the Commission or Attempt to Commit a Dangerous Felony.

**(End of Release)**