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PRESS RELEASE

**Police Bust Cubans Running Marijuana
Grow Operation in Chester County**

The Chester County District Attorney's Office announced the arrest of three Cuban nationals for running a marijuana grow operation in North Coventry Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Over 100 mature marijuana plants were seized from a residence.

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan stated, "This was a sophisticated grow operation. The defendants, with ties to Cuba and Florida, clearly are part of an organized criminal network. It was their bad luck to try an operation like this in Chester County."

North Coventry Police Chief Bob Schurr stated, "This case is another example of inter-agency cooperation between North Coventry Township Police Department, DEA, Pennsylvania State Police, and the Chester County District Attorney's Office. Through this cooperative working relationship, we were able to rid our community of a substantial amount of marijuana that would have potentially been distributed throughout the region. This ongoing relationship shows the dedication that all law enforcement has to rid our communities of illicit drugs."

The defendants are:

1. William Delgado, 46 years old, last known address in Miami, Florida.
2. Yordanky Hevia-Martinez, 34 years old, last known address in Hialeah, Florida.
3. Berto Quinones, 41 years old, last known address in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

All three defendants are Cuban nationals. The United States Department of Homeland Security – Immigration and Customs Enforcement has been notified of the arrests.

The allegations of the criminal complaints are as follows:¹

On March 24, 2017, at approximately 7:00 p.m., the police served a search warrant on 968 Malvern Drive, North Coventry Township, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. That location is the residence of Berto Quinones.

As the search warrant was being served, police observed Quinones leaving the residence with the other two defendants in a black Audi with temporary New Jersey license plates. When police made contact with the defendants, the police could smell a strong odor of raw marijuana in the vehicle.

When police executed the search warrant at the residence, they discovered a significant marijuana grow operation. There were over 100 mature marijuana plants. The police also located items used to grow and harvest marijuana, including lighting, fertilizer, fans, and other material. The defendants had bypassed the electrical meter at the residence to gain access to the electricity they needed to run the grow operation.

The police seized all of the drugs, grow materials, and the vehicle. The Pennsylvania State Police Clandestine Lab team dismantled the operation. The defendants were arrested and remanded to Chester County Prison. The defendants are charged with felony drug trafficking offenses.

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

The police also recovered a marmoset monkey in the house. The monkey was turned over to a local zoo for safekeeping.

This case was investigated by the North Coventry Township Police Department, the Chester County Detectives, DEA, the Pennsylvania State Police, and the regional SWAT team. Anybody with information should contact North Coventry Township Police Officer Jesse Smith at 610-323-8360 or the Chester County Detectives at 610-344-6866.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan