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Thomas P. Hogan  
District Attorney

May 9, 2013

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Police Dismantle Marijuana Grow Operation**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrest of Christian Titone for running a major marijuana grow operation out of his home in West Vincent Township. Chester County Detectives, assisted by other law enforcement agencies, executed a search at the defendant's home. The police uncovered a sophisticated hydroponic grow operation and over 180 live marijuana plants.

The defendant is 53 years old. He resides at 1272 Jaine Lane in West Vincent Township, Spring City, Pennsylvania.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "The defendant thought he could outsmart the police trying to grow marijuana in a secluded location in Chester County. He was wrong. We have confiscated his drugs, arrested him, and now will move to forfeit everything associated with his drug dealing."

The allegations of the criminal complaint are as follows:<sup>1</sup>

Police executed a search warrant just after 6:00 a.m. on May 7, 2013, at the residence located at 1272 Jaine Lane in West Vincent Township. Police found a sophisticated hydroponic grow operation with 188 marijuana plants in various stages of growth. The house also contained processed marijuana that already had been harvested for sale. The marijuana consisted of twelve different strains, labeled with names like Afrodite Mother, JBS Pineapple, and Ace of Spades.

The hydroponic system in the house occupied the basement and consisted of grow lights, an irrigation system, and ventilation. The house had a state of the art surveillance system that

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<sup>1</sup> A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

allowed the defendant to observe all areas inside and outside of the home on a series of high definition monitors throughout the house.

After the residence was secured by Chester County Detectives and members of the Chester County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Strike Force (“HIDTA”), members of the Pennsylvania State Police’s Clandestine Laboratory Team removed the marijuana and all of the equipment used in the propagation of the marijuana.

This investigation was conducted by the Chester County Detectives, Pennsylvania State Police, Oxford Police Department, Kennett Square Police Department, and the Chester County District Attorney’s Drug Unit.

District Attorney Hogan added, “This was excellent work by the Chester County Detectives and assisting departments. Chester County is a great place to live because our law enforcement team is strong.”

The defendant has been charged with drug dealing offenses, including possession with the intent to distribute controlled substances and possession of drug paraphernalia. The defendant’s bail was set at \$100,000 cash, which he promptly paid. His preliminary hearing will be scheduled in the near future.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan