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PRESS RELEASE

Chester County Attacking Heroin Dealing

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the filing of criminal charges against multiple heroin dealers across Chester County. The arrests are the result of a multi-agency effort over the past year. Charges were brought for drug dealing in Phoenixville, East Pikeland, West Goshen, New Garden, Avondale, and other locations in Chester County. The defendants are from Philadelphia, the state of Delaware, and Chester County.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "Chester County law enforcement is cracking down on heroin dealers. Heroin does not discriminate -- from Main Line suburbs to rural locations, heroin turns kids into hard-core addicts or sends them to an early grave. We are going to keep locking up these dealers until they understand that they should stay out of Chester County."

Captain William White, Commander of Troop J of the Pennsylvania State Police, stated, "The District Attorney's office has taken a hard line approach to fighting heroin in Chester County. They have made the arrest and prosecution of heroin dealers a priority and have without hesitation supported all law enforcement efforts. The Pennsylvania State Police are committed to working with the District Attorney's Office to address this serious issue."

The defendants are: Joseph McIntosh, 31, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Westley Reed, 27, of Landenberg, Pennsylvania; Kristopher Peirson, 22, of West Grove, Pennsylvania; Kyle Kellner, 22, of London Grove, Pennsylvania; Andre Rivera, 27, of Avondale, Pennsylvania; John Anderson, 24, of Nottingham, Pennsylvania; Jose Guzman, 21, of Wilmington, Delaware; William Jones, 26, of West Grove, Pennsylvania; Alejandro Guzman, 26, of Wilmington, Delaware; and Jeffrey Gavin, 34, of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania.

The allegations of the criminal complaints are as follows:¹

PSP Investigation

The Pennsylvania State Police operation captured a large number of heroin dealers. Using undercover officers and confidential sources, PSP bought heroin directly from multiple dealers. Starting in March of 2012 and running operations throughout the year, PSP regularly bought dozens of bags of heroin from these dealers, including purchases of over 100 bags.

The defendants are charged with delivery of heroin, criminal use of a communication facility, conspiracy, and other drug-related charges. One group of defendants charged by PSP is Peirson, Kellner, Reed, Rivera, Anderson, Jose and Alejandro Guzman (brothers from Wilmington, DE), and Jones.

Phoenixville Investigation

The Phoenixville investigation began with a death from a heroin overdose.

The parents of a 22 year old woman discovered their daughter dead in her bedroom. The deceased had a history of heroin addiction and heroin paraphernalia was found around her body.

The police tracked down the person who had been dealing heroin to the woman. The police used a combination of interviews with friends and investigation of telephone records to identify the dealer, Joseph McIntosh of Philadelphia.

The police then pulled a friend of the deceased girl temporarily out of prison to contact McIntosh. The friend was a person who also had purchased heroin from McIntosh on prior occasions. The friend called McIntosh and arranged to buy heroin from him at a convenience store in Phoenixville.

When McIntosh pulled up to the convenience store on March 12, 2013, the police were waiting to arrest him. McIntosh tried to run, but was immediately captured. McIntosh had over an ounce of heroin with him, representing thousands of doses of heroin. McIntosh also was carrying a scale, cash, and packaging material, all consistent with drug dealing. McIntosh was arrested and taken into custody.

East Pikeland Investigation

The defendant in the East Pikeland investigation is Jeffrey Gavin, 34. The police received information that Gavin was selling heroin bundles out of a residence at 37 Ruth Avenue in East Pikeland. Heroin is generally sold in bags (individual doses, usually 0.01-0.03 grams), bundles (10 bags), or racks (10 bundles). Based on this information and other information gathered by the East Pikeland Police Department and the Chester County Municipal Drug Task Force, police obtained a search warrant for the residence.

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

Police executed the search warrant on March 12, 2013. Gavin was located in the residence. He had three bundles of heroin on him and \$760 in cash. Police also discovered another 25 bundles of heroin in the residence, all labeled "Trick or Treat," as well as drug paraphernalia such as packaging material and a scale. Heroin dealers often label their drugs with a distinctive name in order to develop brand loyalty. Gavin was immediately arrested.

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District Attorney Hogan added, "Every parent across Chester County needs to be vigilant to the dangers of heroin. Heroin addiction can lead to death or a lifetime of misery. Protect your kids from this poison."

According to statistics from the Chester County Coroner's Office, there were 34 deaths in 2012 in Chester County where the deceased had heroin in his or her system. Nine of those deaths occurred in November and December, confirming an upward trend that has been noted by Chester County law enforcement.

These investigations were conducted by the Pennsylvania State Police, Phoenixville Police Department, East Pikeland Police Department, Oxford Police Department, Tredyffrin Police Department, Kennett Square Police Department, New Garden Police Department, Chester County Municipal Drug Task Force, Chester County Detectives, and the Chester County District Attorney's Drug Unit. Prosecutors Steve Kelly and Chris deBarrena-Sarobe have been assigned to prosecute these cases.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan