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**Mercer County Narcotics Task Force Arrests Three,
Seizes \$29,000 in Various Drugs**

TRENTON -- Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. and Trenton Police Director Ralph Rivera reported the Mercer County Narcotics Task Force, under the command of Lt. Mike Novembre, concluded a two and a half month investigation last week with three arrests and the seizure of cocaine, heroin, PCP and other narcotics.

Bocchini stated that at approximately 10:50 a.m. on Thursday, April 10, members of the narcotics task force executed search warrants at two locations in Trenton. When officers with the prosecutor's office, the county sheriff's office, the New Jersey State Police TEAMS Unit, and the Ewing, Hamilton, Lawrence and Trenton police, executed search warrants at 120 Hoffman Avenue, **DARNELL BESSANT** was located inside and detained without incident. A search of Bessant revealed \$120 and a white Suzuki belonging to Bessant's girlfriend was seized as drug proceeds.

During the search of 120 Hoffman Avenue, officers located: one and a half ounces of PCP in the mudroom freezer; 47 grams of powder cocaine, 33 grams of crack cocaine and 150 decks of heroin in a jacket pocket in the master bedroom; one and a half ounces of marijuana in a shoebox in the master bedroom; \$720 in cash in a dresser drawer; five grams of crack cocaine on the living room couch; five grams of raw heroin underneath the rear of the house; a digital scale and packaging material.

The narcotics task force also executed search warrants at an apartment on Atterbury Street believed to be a location Bessant used to stash narcotics. At the apartment, **PATRICIA BALL** and **TARRANCE SAPP** were located and detained without incident. During the search of the apartment, officers located: nine ounces of PCP in the freezer; 47 grams of powder cocaine on a nightstand in the bedroom; 23 grams of powder cocaine in a false bottom can in a closet; a Tupperware container with plastic baggies and a small amount of powder cocaine; four Xanax

pills on a bedroom dresser; 30 decks of heroin and 24 grams of marijuana in a plastic bag in a bedroom closet; and cash totaling \$594. A small bag of powder cocaine was located in Sapp's shoe in the living room.

Novembre said the estimated street value of the seized narcotics totals approximately \$29,135.

BESSANT, age 47, of Hoffman Avenue, Trenton, is charged with eight counts of possession of a controlled dangerous substance, eight counts of possession with the intent to distribute, four counts of possession with the intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school and possession of drug paraphernalia. He is being held at the Mercer County Correction Center in lieu of \$250,000 bail.

BALL, age 40, of Atterbury Street, Trenton, is charged with five counts of possession of a controlled dangerous substance, four counts of possession with the intent to distribute, four counts of possession with the intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school and possession of drug paraphernalia. She is being held at the Mercer County Correction Center in lieu of \$150,000 bail.

SAPP, age 38, of Fairway Drive, Trenton, is charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance. He was issued a summons and released pending future court proceedings.

Despite having been charged, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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