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Trenton Man Arrested, \$98,000 in Cocaine Seized

HAMILTON -- Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. and Hamilton Police Chief James W. Collins reported that a joint investigation conducted by the Mercer County Narcotics Task Force, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the DEA concluded on Monday with the arrest of Nelson Torres-Ruiz and the seizure of \$98,000 in powder cocaine.

Bocchini stated that on Friday, March 28, a UPS parcel containing approximately one kilogram of cocaine, concealed with coffee grinds, was intercepted in Kentucky by ICE/Homeland Security Investigations. The parcel was addressed to Alex Rios, 4 Tuttle Avenue, Second Floor, Hamilton, NJ.

On Monday, March 31, a Homeland Security agent was assigned to deliver the package and other units were set up to detain any individual that picked it up. At approximately 1:30 p.m., the parcel was delivered to 4 Tuttle Avenue. No one answered the door and the package was left on the porch. Officers maintained continuous surveillance of the package and about 45 minutes later, a 2002 silver Acura parked in front of the residence. An individual later identified as Nelson Torres-Ruiz exited the vehicle, walked to the porch and took custody of the package. Officers detained Torres-Ruiz and the package as he began to walk back to his vehicle.

Torres-Ruiz, age 33, of Elmer Street, Trenton, is charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance and possession with the intent to distribute. He is being held at the Mercer County Correction Center in lieu of \$250,000 bail.

Officers with the prosecutor's office, the DEA, ICE/Homeland Security, the county sheriff's office, and the Ewing, Hamilton, Lawrence and Trenton police, under the command of Lt. Mike Novembre, conducted the investigation and made the arrest. Novembre said the estimated street value of the cocaine is \$98,000. The Acura was seized as drug proceeds.

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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