



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR

**MERCER COUNTY
COURT HOUSE
P.O. BOX 8068**

JOSEPH L. BOCCHINI, JR.
Prosecutor

**TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08650-0068
PHONE: (609) 989-6350
(609) 989-6305
FAX #: (609) 989-0161**

ANGELO J. ONOFRI
First Assistant Prosecutor

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CONTACT: Casey A. DeBlasio
(609) 989-6379

Mercer County SIU Seizes More Than \$50,000 in Narcotics

TRENTON -- Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. and Trenton Police Director Ralph Rivera announced that the merged Mercer County Special Investigations Unit (SIU) concluded a two-month investigation on Friday with the seizure of more than \$50,000 in narcotics, more than \$25,000 in cash and a 9mm semiautomatic weapon.

Bocchini stated that last Friday, August 9, 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, under the command of Lt. Mike Novembre, executed search warrants at two Trenton locations. At approximately 11:50 a.m., officers observed Yakeema Knight enter an apartment at 332 South Broad Street. He was taken into custody without incident as he was weighing a quantity of powder cocaine on a digital scale.

A search of the apartment revealed approximately 454 grams of powder cocaine concealed in various false bottom containers and in an empty gun case, 14 ounces of marijuana on the kitchen table, a pound of marijuana in a cooler in the hallway, \$6,230 in cash, a digital scale and assorted drug paraphernalia. Two grams of crack cocaine were also located in the empty gun case.

Search warrants were also executed at Knight's residence, 126 Eisenhower Avenue. A 9mm semiautomatic handgun was found under a mattress, drug ledgers were found on top of a dresser and \$3,800 in cash was located in a dresser drawer. Officers also discovered an orange shoebox containing \$15,300.

Novembre said the estimated street value of the powder cocaine is \$45,800; the estimated street value of the marijuana is \$6,000; and the estimated street value of the crack cocaine is \$200.

A search of Knight revealed \$919. A white Ford Explorer was seized as drug proceeds.

Knight, age 35, is charged with multiple counts of drug possession and possession with the intent to distribute, possession of a weapon while committing a narcotics offense, certain persons not to possess a weapon and possession of drug paraphernalia. He is being held at the Mercer County Correction Center in lieu of \$250,000 bail.

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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