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Drug Investigation Nets \$280,000 in Heroin

TRENTON – Acting Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri and Trenton Police Director Ernest Parrey Jr. reported the Mercer County Narcotics Task Force concluded a month-long investigation last week with the seizure of \$280,000 in heroin.

Onofri stated that at approximately 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, officers with the Mercer County Narcotics Task Force were conducting surveillance of Jemar Conover, the target of an ongoing narcotics investigation. As a result of the surveillance, Detectives Erik Mancheno and Stewart Owens of the Trenton Police Department's Street Crimes Unit conducted a motor vehicle stop of a black Chrysler 200 at Covert Alley and Firth Avenue. Officers observed in plain view 430 bricks of heroin stamped "Block Party" in a black bag on the back seat that had just been obtained from Conover's vehicle. Officers also observed 60 bricks of heroin also stamped "Block Party" on the rear passenger floor. Less than 50 grams of marijuana was located in a glass jar in the vehicle. The driver, James Edens, and the passenger, Scotland Ford, were placed under arrest and transported to the Trenton Police Department. A search of Edens revealed \$3,371 and a search of Ford revealed \$292.

Then, at approximately 9:30 p.m. task force officers detained Jemar Conover and his sister, Michelle Conover, on South Broad Street in Trenton. After the Conovers were detained, officers with the Mercer County Narcotics Task Force and the Mercer County Sheriff's Office SERT executed the search warrant for 1212 West State Street. A search of the residence revealed nothing of evidentiary value. A search of Jemar Conover's silver Lincoln Aviator revealed \$3,307. The vehicle was seized as drug proceeds.

Two vehicles without license plates were found in the backyard of 1212 West State Street. Mercer County Prosecutor's Detective Joseph Angarone utilized his K-9 partner Bela to

conduct an exterior sniff around both vehicles. Bela gave a positive indication on both vehicles for the presence of narcotic odor, and Angarone observed suspected heroin in an open plastic bag in the backseat on the floor board of one of the vehicles. The 2001 black Hyundai Santa Fe and a black Volkswagon Jetta were towed and secured while search warrants were obtained. Approximately 70 bricks of heroin stamped "Block Party" were located behind the driver's seat of the Hyundai. Both vehicles were seized as drug proceeds.

James Edens, age 36, of West State Street, Trenton, is charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession with the intent to distribute, possession with the intent to distribute within 500 feet of a park, possession with the intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school and possession of marijuana under 50 grams. His bail was set at \$150,000 cash only.

Scotland Ford, age 33, of Anderson Street, Trenton, is charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession with the intent to distribute, possession with the intent to distribute within 500 feet of a park, possession with the intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school and possession of marijuana under 50 grams. His bail was set at \$100,000 cash or bond.

Jemar Conover, age 30, of West State Street, Trenton, is charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession with the intent to distribute, possession with the intent to distribute within 500 feet of a park and possession with the intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school. His bail was set at \$100,000 cash or bond.

Michelle Conover, age 41, of West State Street, Trenton, is charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession with the intent to distribute, possession with the intent to distribute within 500 feet of a park and possession with the intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school. Her bail was also set at \$100,000 cash or bond.

Additional drug charges are pending against both Conovers.

Onofri thanked the following agencies for their assistance in the investigation: the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office Special Investigation Unit, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office, the MCSO SERT, the New Jersey State Police, and the Hamilton, Lawrence and Trenton police departments.

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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