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**Mercer County Narcotics Task Force Arrests Six,
Seizes \$14,000 in Heroin**

TRENTON -- Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. and Trenton Police Director Ernest Parrey Jr. reported the Mercer County Narcotics Task Force concluded a two-week investigation last week with six arrests and the seizure of heroin and crack cocaine.

Bocchini stated that at approximately 10 a.m. on Friday, January 16, officers with the prosecutor's office, the county sheriff's office, the New Jersey State Police, and the Hamilton, Lawrence and Trenton police, under the command of Lt. Mike Novembre, executed a search warrant at 364 South Olden Avenue, first floor, Trenton. The target of the investigation, James McLaughlin, was located inside his residence. He was secured without incident along with Douglas Philhower, Michelle Hughes and Marvin Lawrence.

A search of the residence revealed two bags containing 1,428 decks of heroin. Four grams of crack cocaine and digital scales were located in a safe in the living room. McLaughlin was counting money, totaling \$455, when the search warrant was executed. Additional digital scales were located in the living room.

Novembre said the estimated street value of the seized heroin is approximately \$14,280. The value of the crack cocaine is approximately \$400.

McLaughlin, age 52, is charged with three counts of 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, distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, distribution within 500 feet of a park, distribution within 1,000 feet of a school and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bail was set at \$150,000 cash or bond.

Philhower, age 49, of Trenton, Hughes, age 44, of Trenton, and Lawrence, age 58, all of Trenton, were each lodged on active warrants.

Prior to the execution of the search warrant, task force officers were conducting surveillance of the location and arrested Michael Quinn after he purchased heroin from inside the premises. Quinn, age 28, of Hamilton, is charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance. Twenty decks of heroin were seized.

Jennifer Macario, age 33, of Hamilton, knocked on the door of the premises during the search and officers ran a warrant check. The check revealed she had two outstanding warrants and she was lodged at the Trenton Police Department.

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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