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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 25, 2013

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Mercer County SIU Scores Big in First Hit
\$28,500 in Heroin Seized

TRENTON -- Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. announced today that the newly merged Mercer County Special Investigations Unit (SIU) seized \$28,500 in heroin in its first investigation since the Trenton Police Department's Vice Unit combined with the prosecutor's office last week.

"One job at a time, one drug dealer at a time, that is how we are going to help make a difference on the streets," Bocchini said. He praised the hard work of the unit's men and women, under the command of Lt. Mike Novembre, and pledged law enforcement's continued commitment.

Bocchini stated that law enforcement recently received information that Jerome "Righteous" Roberts was distributing large amounts of heroin from his Division Street residence.

Novembre stated that at approximately 12:40 p.m. on Thursday, officers executed a search warrant at 727 Division Street. Roberts was secured on the front porch without incident. Inside the house, 57 bricks of heroin were recovered from a black bag behind a couch in the living room. Novembre said the bricks of heroin equaled 2,850 bags, which is worth approximately \$28,500 on the street. Cash totaling \$590 was found on Roberts' person.

Roberts is still on parole for a 2007 conviction for the murder of Robert Priester. At the time of his guilty plea, Roberts admitted to hiring two Long Branch men to shoot Priester, who was a rival drug dealer.

Roberts, age 42, is charged with possession of heroin, possession with the intent to distribute, possession with the intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school and possession of drug paraphernalia. He is being held in the Mercer County Correction Center in lieu of \$150,000 full cash bail conditioned upon a source hearing.

Bocchini thanked all of the agencies who had a hand in the joint effort, including the prosecutor's office, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office, the New Jersey State Police TEAMS unit, and the Trenton, Ewing, Hamilton and Lawrence 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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