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Mercer County Narcotics Task Force Seizes \$57,000 in Drugs

TRENTON – Acting Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri and Trenton Police Director Ernest Parrey Jr. reported the Mercer County Narcotics Task Force concluded a two-month investigation yesterday with two arrests and the seizure of two handguns and \$57,000 in drugs.

Onofri stated that at approximately 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, officers with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office, the New Jersey State Police, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the Hamilton and Trenton police, under the command of Lt. Mike Novembre, executed search warrants at 8 Oak Lane in Trenton.

The target of the investigation, David Lassiter, was secured in front of a residence on Norman Street in Trenton by members of the task force. A search of Lassiter revealed \$770. Rakim Johnson was secured by officers as he exited the Oak Lane premises. A search of Johnson revealed \$575 and a small quantity of marijuana.

A search of Lassiter's room on Oak Lane revealed a Glock .40 caliber semi-automatic handgun with an extended magazine and a fully-loaded revolver, approximately 80 grams of crack cocaine, approximately 420 grams of powder cocaine, approximately 12 ounces of marijuana, approximately 13 ounces of promethazine, \$7,217 in cash and drug paraphernalia, including digital scales, baggies and cooking utensils for crack cocaine.

A search of Johnson's room on Oak Lane revealed a safe that contained approximately 28 grams of crack cocaine and a quantity of marijuana. An additional quantity of crack cocaine, marijuana, baggies and a digital scale were also located in the same room.

A search of Lassiter's Lexus sedan revealed \$16 and a small amount of marijuana. The Lexus and a 2006 Honda Accord also belonging to Lassiter were seized as drug proceeds.

Novembre said the estimated street value of the seized crack cocaine is approximately \$11,000; the powder cocaine is \$42,000; the marijuana is \$3,000; and the promethazine is \$1,000.

Lassiter, age 34, is charged with multiple counts of possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession with the intent to distribute and possession with the intent to distribute within 500 feet of a park. He is also charged with possession of a firearm while committing a narcotics offense, certain persons not to possess a weapon, possession of a high-capacity magazine and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bail was set at \$200,000 cash only.

Johnson, age 22, is charged with multiple counts of possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession with the intent to distribute and possession with the intent to distribute within 500 feet of a park. He is also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. His bail was set at \$150,000 cash only.

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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