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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2013

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Mercer County SIU Arrests Trenton Man, Seizes Crack Cocaine

TRENTON -- Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. announced that the merged Mercer County Special Investigations Unit (SIU) concluded a month-long investigation on Wednesday with one arrest and the seizure of \$3,000 in crack cocaine.

Bocchini stated that at approximately 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Salaam Rutherford and his 1995 Chevy Camaro were secured at the Auto Zone on South Broad Street in Trenton. A search of the vehicle revealed a small amount of crack cocaine and marijuana. Rutherford was placed under arrest.

Officers also executed search warrants at two Trenton residences. A search of 40 Carroll Street revealed approximately 30 grams of crack cocaine and a digital scale in a plant on the refrigerator. At Rutherford's residence, 13 Bond Street, officers discovered \$7,460 in a safe in a third-floor bedroom along with a small amount of marijuana on the windowsill.

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, conducted the investigation and made the arrest. Novembre said the estimated street value of the cocaine is \$3,000.

Rutherford, age 23, is charged with two counts of possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession with the intent to distribute, possession with the intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. He is being held at the Mercer County Correction Center in lieu of \$150,000 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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