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Mercer County Narcotics Task Force Arrests Trenton Man, Seizes \$10,000 in Cocaine

TRENTON – Acting Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri announced that the Mercer County Narcotics Task Force concluded a month and a half long investigation yesterday with the arrest of a Trenton man and the seizure of over \$10,000 in cocaine.

Onofri stated that at approximately 6:09 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, officers with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office and SERT, the New Jersey State Police, and the Hamilton, Lawrence and Trenton police, under the command of Lt. Mike Novembre, executed search warrants at two locations in the City of Trenton. During the execution of the search warrant for 879 Parkside Avenue, task force members located Duane Pue in the bathroom of the apartment. After Pue was secured, officers observed the toilet running and the water to be cloudy. Upon further investigation, 3 plastic bags, each containing a quantity of crack cocaine, were retrieved from the toilet bowl. In addition to the bags of crack cocaine, police recovered loose pieces of crack cocaine floating in the water. A plastic bag containing several empty small plastic bags utilized for packaging crack cocaine was found on top of the toilet. A further search of the residence revealed additional crack cocaine on the living room table.

A search of Pue revealed 12 bags of crack cocaine in a pill holder attached to his key chain.

No one was located at 237 Oakland Street, Apartment 709, during the execution of the search warrant and no contraband was recovered.

Novembre said over 95 grams of crack cocaine was seized. The estimated street value of the seized narcotics is \$10,100.

PUE, age 52, of Oakland Street, Trenton, is charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of a controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute, possession of a controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute on or near a public facility, possession of a controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute on or near school property, possession of drug paraphernalia and tampering with evidence. Pue is being held at the Mercer County Corrections Center in lieu of \$75,000.00 cash only 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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