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**County Narcotics Task Force Seizes Marijuana, Cocaine, Heroin and Guns**

Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. announced that an investigation led by his Special Investigations Unit (SIU), under the command of Lt. Mike Novembre, has resulted in two arrests, and the seizure of \$11,600 in marijuana, \$5,200 in powder cocaine, \$380 in heroin and five guns.

Bocchini stated that last Thursday, May 30, SIU officers along with the Mercer County Sheriff's Office, the New Jersey State Police, and the Ewing, Hamilton, Lawrence and Trenton police executed search warrants at multiple Trenton locations at approximately 5 p.m. At 1007 Indiana Avenue, officers located Melvin Rivera, age 31, and detained him without incident. A search of Rivera's residence revealed 50 grams of powder cocaine in a coffee can, marijuana, \$483 in cash, 38 decks of heroin and drug paraphernalia. A canvas bag was located in the basement containing a Ruger SR .22 caliber rifle, a Saiga AK 47-style assault rifle, a Century Arms assault rifle, three high capacity magazines, ammunition of various calibers and a black ski mask. A fully loaded .32 caliber revolver was also found under a mattress in the bedroom.

At 79 Chase Street, officers took 39-year-old Javier Caquias into custody. Seven marijuana plants were located in the backyard. Inside of the residence, marijuana and digital scales were found, along with a shotgun and approximately \$446 in cash. A search of Caquias revealed \$449 and two small bags of cocaine.

Officers also searched a storage facility unit of Rivera's and seized a Honda motorcycle and an East Coast ATV as drug proceeds.

Novembre stated that the approximate street value of the powder cocaine is \$5,000; the approximate street value of the marijuana is \$4,500; the marijuana plants seized are valued at approximately \$7,000; and the approximate street value of the heroin is \$380.

Rivera was charged with numerous narcotics and weapons offenses, as well as possession of drug paraphernalia. Bail was set in the amount of \$250,000. Caquias was charged with possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released pending future court proceedings.

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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