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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Hamilton Man Arrested, \$38,000 in Marijuana Seized**

**HAMILTON** -- Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. and Hamilton Police Chief James W. Collins reported that the Mercer County Narcotics Task Force concluded an investigation last week with the arrest of Joseph Fratticcioli and the seizure of more than \$38,000 in marijuana.

At approximately 9:30 a.m. on Friday, September 12, members of the narcotics task force detained Fratticcioli at his place of employment, the Hamilton Township Municipal Building, without incident. Officers then executed search warrants at Fratticcioli's residence in the 1400 block of Kuser Road, Hamilton. A search revealed six large marijuana plants in the backyard. An additional three plants and a vacuum sealer were located in the mudroom. In Fratticcioli's bedroom, officers discovered seven large glass jars containing marijuana, a triple beam scale, a plastic container with marijuana \$910 in cash, a 30-60 rifle and two shotguns. Fratticcioli's 1996 Dodge pickup truck was seized as drug proceeds.

Fratticcioli, age 52, is charged with two counts of possession of marijuana, two counts of possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute, possession of a firearm while committing a narcotics offense and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bail was set at \$75,000.

Officers with the prosecutor's office, the Hamilton Police Division, the county sheriff's office, the New Jersey State Police, and the Lawrence, Robbinsville 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 seized marijuana plants is \$25,000. The estimated street value of the marijuana located in the containers, approximately three to four pounds, is \$13,500.

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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