



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

**MERCER COUNTY  
COURT HOUSE  
P.O. BOX 8068**

**JOSEPH L. BOCCHINI, JR.**  
*Prosecutor*

**TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08650-0068**  
**PHONE: (609) 989-6350**  
**(609) 989-6305**  
**FAX #: (609) 989-0161**

**ANGELO J. ONOFRI**  
*First Assistant Prosecutor*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Casey A. DeBlasio  
(609) 989-6379

**Cocaine & Cash Seized from Lawrence Township Pizzeria**

Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. and Lawrence Township Police Chief Daniel A. Posluszny announced that the Mercer County Special Investigations Unit (SIU) concluded a three-month investigation last Friday with a raid of a family-owned pizzeria.

Bocchini stated that the investigation was a result of multiple complaints about drugs being sold out of Nino's Trattoria & Pizzeria on Lawrence Road. On Friday, September 13, just after 10 a.m., officers with the prosecutor's office, the county sheriff's office, and the Ewing, Hamilton, Lawrence and Trenton police departments executed search warrants at the pizzeria and two residences in Hamilton Township.

One of the proprietors of the family-owned pizzeria, Angelo Esposito, was located and secured inside of Nino's. A search of the office revealed approximately 11 grams of powder cocaine, packaged for distribution, and a fully-loaded, defaced Taurus 9mm semi-automatic handgun. A duffel bag containing \$978 was located in the kitchen. Esposito's 1998 Chevrolet Tahoe was seized as drug proceeds.

At Angelo Esposito's residence on Nalbone Court in Hamilton, officers found approximately two grams of powder cocaine in a bathroom drawer, two shotguns and a rifle, a small quantity of marijuana, a digital scale and packaging material, and cash totaling \$7,807 in various locations. Esposito's wife, Pamela Nalbone-Esposito, was placed under arrest.

A search warrant was also executed at the Cranbrook Road residence of Esposito's brother, David Esposito. In the garage, officers located a black pouch containing approximately 17 grams of powder cocaine packaged for distribution, a digital scale and packaging material. Throughout one of the rear bedrooms, \$11,975 was found. A search of Esposito's 2001 BMW revealed three bags of powder cocaine. The vehicle was seized as drug proceeds along with Esposito's

Hummer H2. David Esposito was placed under arrest and transported to the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

Officers with the prosecutor's office, the county sheriff's office, and the Ewing, Hamilton, Lawrence and Trenton police departments, under the command of Lt. Mike Novembre, conducted the investigation and made the arrests. Novembre said the estimated street value of the powder cocaine is \$3,000.

Angelo Esposito, age 49, is charged with possession of cocaine, possession with the intent to distribute, possession of a firearm while committing a narcotics offense, possession of a defaced firearm and possession of drug paraphernalia. He is free on \$75,000 bail.

David Esposito, age 41, is charged with possession of cocaine, possession with the intent to distribute, possession with the intent to distribute within 500 feet of a park and possession of drug paraphernalia. He is free on \$100,000 bail.

Pamela Nalbhone-Esposito, age 43, was charged with possession of cocaine and possession of marijuana. She was released on a summons pending 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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