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Prosecutor's SIU Seizes \$25,000 in Drugs

TRENTON -- Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. announced that an investigation led by his Special Investigations Unit (SIU), under the command of Lt. Rich Frascella, concluded this morning with one arrest and the seizure of \$25,000 in drugs.

Bocchini stated that his office received information about two weeks ago regarding a Dominican male who was setting up shop in Trenton and selling heroin and cocaine. Within two weeks, investigators were able to identify their suspect as 43-year-old Jesus Reyes. They were also able to learn the area where he was living and making drug sales.

At approximately 8:30 Sunday morning, SIU detectives assisted by the Mercer County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration executed a search warrant at 161 Sherman Avenue, where Reyes was renting a second-floor room. A search of the room produced 36 bricks of heroin and 70 grams of crack cocaine hidden behind the bed. Officers also seized \$1,620 in cash.

Reyes was charged with two counts each of possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession with the intent to distribute and possession with the intent to distribute within 1000 feet of a school. He was also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

Reyes, who was born in Santo Domingo, is an undocumented citizen. He is being lodged in the Mercer County Correction Center on \$75,000 bail and a detainer from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Frascella stated that the large quantity of drugs Reyes was intending to sell meant he was serious about the business he was trying to establish in Trenton. Frascella also stated detectives concentrated their efforts during the two-week SIU investigation so that Reyes would not have time to get his feet planted. "We wanted to cut him down at the knees," he said.

Frascella stated that the seized drugs have an approximate street value of \$25,000.

Despite having been charged, all persons are presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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