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SIU Investigation Yields \$30,000 in Heroin

Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. announced that a month-long investigation into heroin distribution conducted by his Special Investigations Unit (SIU), under the command of Lt. Rich Frascella, has led to the arrest of one individual and the seizure of approximately \$30,000 in narcotics.

Bocchini stated that on Friday at approximately 1:30 p.m., the target of the investigation, Joshua Hunter, 37, of Mount Holly, was observed leaving his Grant Street residence carrying a white plastic bag. Hunter entered a 2010 Lincoln MKS rental car and made his way toward Trenton. When marked county sheriff's units initiated a motor vehicle stop, Hunter exited his car at the traffic light at Route 129 and Lalor Street, and ran across the highway carrying the plastic bag. Officers watched as he threw the plastic bag in to a garbage can in front of Lalor Plaza and then ran back toward his car. SIU detectives secured Hunter on Lalor Street as he attempted to get back into his vehicle. The plastic bag was recovered and found to contain 31 bricks, or 1,550 bags, of heroin. Hunter was placed under arrest and found to have approximately \$4,800 in cash in his pocket.

After Hunter was taken into custody, simultaneous search warrants were executed in Trenton and Mount Holly. A search of Hunter's residence by the Burlington County Prosecutor's Gangs, Guns and Narcotics Task Force and the Mount Holly police revealed 25 bricks, or 1,250 bags, of heroin in his basement bedroom.

In Trenton, at 158 Philips Avenue, SIU detectives aided by the Mercer County Sheriff's Special Emergency Response Team discovered three additional bricks, or 150 bags, of heroin. Trenton and West Windsor police also assisted.

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Hunter was charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession with the intent to distribute, possession with the intent to distribute within 1000 feet of a school, eluding

and tampering with evidence. He is being held at the Mercer County Correction Center in lieu of \$150,000 bail and a parole detainer. Charges are pending against Hunter in Burlington County.

Frascella stated that the seized heroin has an approximate street value of \$30,000.

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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