



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
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15 ARRESTED IN HEROIN DISTRIBUTION RING THAT OPERATED IN THE AREA OF KEEN STREET IN PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

OCTOBER 3, 2010

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes, Chief James Wittig, of the Paterson Police Department, Chief Gary Giardina of the Clifton Police Department and Acting Chief John Reardon of the Wayne Police Department, announce that as a result of a six month investigation 15 individuals were arrested on Saturday, October 2, 2010, for numerous narcotics related offenses, including leaders of trafficking network and conspiracy to distribute heroin. Among the individuals arrested were Ronald Carrasquillo, age 41, of Clifton, New Jersey, Rafael Perez, age 53, of Paterson, New Jersey, and Ronald Fontanez, age 31, of Paterson, New Jersey.

Beginning in or about May 2010 and continuing to on or about October 2010, the joint investigation led by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office and the Paterson Police Department revealed that Ronald Carrasquillo and Rafael Perez and a number of other individuals were suppliers of large quantities of Heroin and Cocaine. The drug ring used "runners" to distribute narcotics in the area of Keen Street in Paterson, New Jersey. To date, the investigation has revealed that approximately 8 individuals worked with or for the defendants in distributing heroin.

Ronald Carrasquillo was arrested and charged with 8 counts including Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network, Conspiracy to Distribute (heroin and cocaine), Distribution of Controlled Dangerous Substance, Distribution within 1000 feet of a school, Possession of Heroin, Possession of Heroin with Intent to Distribute and Possession of Heroin with Intent to Distribute within 1000 feet of a school. The charge of Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment during which the person must serve 25 years before being eligible for parole. The conspiracy to distribute a controlled dangerous substance charges each carry a maximum of up to 10 years in New Jersey State Prison. The possession of controlled dangerous substance charge carries a maximum of up to 5 years in New Jersey State Prison. The Distribution within 1000 feet of a school charge and the Possession of Heroin with Intent to Distribute within 1000 Feet of a school charge each carry a maximum of 5 years with 3 years before parole eligibility.

Rafael Perez was arrested and charged with 9 counts including Conspiracy to Distribute (heroin and cocaine), Unlawful Possession of a Weapon (2 counts), Possession of Heroin, Possession of Heroin with Intent to Distribute and Possession of Heroin with Intent to Distribute within 1000 feet of a school and Certain Persons not to Have a Weapon (2 counts). The conspiracy to distribute a controlled dangerous substance charges each carry a maximum of up to 10 years in New Jersey State Prison. Unlawful Possession of a Weapon charges each carries a maximum of up to 10 years in New Jersey State Prison. The Certain Persons Not to have a Weapon charge carries a maximum of 10 years in New Jersey State Prison.

Ronald Fontanez was arrested and charged with 9 counts including Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network, Conspiracy to Distribute (heroin), Distribution of Controlled Dangerous Substance, Distribution within 1000 feet of a school, Possession of Heroin, Possession of Heroin with Intent to Distribute and Possession of Heroin with Intent to Distribute within 1000 Feet of a school. The charge of Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment during which the person must serve 25 years before being eligible for parole. The conspiracy to distribute a controlled dangerous substance charges each carry a maximum of up to 10 years in New Jersey State Prison. The possession of controlled dangerous substance charges each carry a maximum of up to 5 years in New Jersey State Prison. The Distribution within 1000 feet of a school charge and the Possession of Heroin with Intent to Distribute within 1000 Feet of a school charge each carry a maximum of 5 years with 3 years before parole eligibility.

Also, the following individuals were charged with and arrested for either conspiracy, distribution or purchasing controlled dangerous substances:

Fanny Singer, of Paterson, age 50
Timmy Bradshaw, of New Brunswick, age 46
Jose Serrano, of Paterson, age 49
Kejuan Brisbon, of Paterson, age 30
Arthur Valdez, of Wayne, age 50
Efrain Torres, of Paterson, age 37
Jamar Crawford, of Paterson, age 26
Leonard Longo, of Paterson, age 86
Alexander Torres, of Paterson, age 36
Elfonso Hernandez, of Paterson, age 38
Lindsey Cook, of Paterson, age 50
Darrell Boyd, of Paterson, age 48

Warrants were also issued for two additional suspects.

As a result of search warrants executed on October 2, 2010 of various residences and automobiles located in the Cities of Paterson and Clifton, law enforcement officials recovered two handguns, one that was loaded with hollow point bullets, a quantity of heroin in the area of 126 and 128 Keen Street, a quantity of heroin at 102 Beech Street along with narcotics paraphernalia and approximately \$8,000.

Bail was set by the Honorable Marilyn C. Clark, P.J., Cr., for defendants Ronald Carrasquillo, Rafael Perez and Ronnie G. Fontanez in the amount of \$500,000 with no 10%. The remaining defendants bail will be set by the Paterson Municipal Court.

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office and Paterson Police Department acknowledge and credit the following agencies for the arrests in the investigation: Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, Sussex County Prosecutor's Office, West Milford Police Department, Paterson Animal Control, Passaic County Sheriff's Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant Prosecutor Laura Tencza. Any inquiries may be directed to her at 973-837-7704 or ltencza@passaiccountynj.org.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.