



NEWS RELEASE

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FOURTEEN PEOPLE ARRESTED IN DRUG DISTRIBUTION OPERATION IN RINGWOOD AND WEST MILFORD

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

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Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Chief Bernard Lombardo of the Ringwood Police Department announce that as a result of a joint two month investigation conducted by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics, Gangs and Violent Crimes Task Force and the Ringwood Police Department, 14 individuals were arrested on December 22, 2009. Among the individuals, Anthony B. Vandunk, age 25, of Ringwood, Dennis Milligan, of West Milford, age 40, and Travis Thompson, of Northvale, age 30, were arrested for numerous drug-related offenses.

Anthony Vandunk was arrested and charged with one count of Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network, a crime of the first degree; two counts of Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance (cocaine and crack cocaine), crimes of the second degree; one count of Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance (prescription legend drugs in excess of 100 doses), a crime of the second degree; two counts of Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance (cocaine and crack cocaine), crimes of the third degree; two counts of Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance (oxycotin and percocet), crimes of the third degree. The leader of a narcotics trafficking network charge carries a sentence 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 ten years in New Jersey State Prison. The possession of controlled dangerous substance charges each carry a maximum of up to five years in New Jersey State Prison.

Dennis Milligan was arrested and charged with two counts of Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance (crack cocaine and cocaine), crimes of the second degree and one count of Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance (prescription legend drugs in an amount less than 100 doses).

Travis Thompson was arrested and charged with one count of Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance (cocaine), a second degree crime. Conspiracy to distribute a

controlled dangerous substance carries a potential maximum sentence of up to 10 years in New Jersey State Prison.

During the months of November and December of 2009, the joint investigation revealed that Anthony Vandunk distributed cocaine, crack cocaine and prescription drugs from his residence in Ringwood and from the residence of Dennis Milligan located in West Milford. Further, the investigation revealed that Travis Thompson was involved in a drug distribution operation from a residence located in Northvale, New Jersey. The following eleven individuals were also arrested for their participation in numerous drug related offenses:

Jonathan Vandunk, of Ringwood, age 24
Kayla Vandunk, of Ringwood, age 23
Jeffrey L. Vandunk, of West Milford, age 32
William C. Mann, of Ringwood, age 43
Bruce W. McPherson, of Ringwood, age 34
Tyrone Milligan, of Wanaque, age 42
Jack O. Whritenour, of Hewitt, age 27
Alisha Lobosco, of West Milford, age 24
Pamela N. Picano, of Northvale, age 30
Charlotte F. Giarratano, of Highland Lakes, age 40
Edward J. Giarratano, of Highland Lakes, age 42

As a result of search warrants executed at the residence of Anthony Vandunk located at 19 Peters Mine Road, Ringwood and Dennis Milligan located at 63 White Road, Hewitt (West Milford), New Jersey, respectively, law enforcement officials recovered a quantity of cocaine, crack cocaine, prescription legend drugs, a 2004 BMW, and approximately \$2,000.

Bail was set in the amount of \$150,000 for Anthony Vandunk, Dennis Milligan and Travis Thompson. Bail was set in the amount of \$75,000 and \$50,000 depending on the degree of the crimes charged. All fourteen defendants were arraigned in municipal court.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant Prosecutor Laura Tencza. The Passaic County Sheriff's Department, Wanaque Police Department, West Milford Police Department and the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office added valuable assistance to the investigation.

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