



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office
401 Grand Street
Paterson, NJ 07505
(973) 881-4800

ARREST MADE IN CONNECTION WITH STRICT LIABILITY DRUG INDUCED DEATH IN WEST MILFORD

WEST MILFORD, NEW JERSEY:

September 21, 2017

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and West Milford Police Chief Timothy C. Storbeck announce that based upon an investigation by the West Milford Police Department, in conjunction with the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, Cleveland D. Spencer, 26 years old, from Paterson, New Jersey, was arrested this morning in relation to a drug induced death that took place on June 2, 2017 at 14 Freehold Court in the Township of West Milford. Mr. Spencer is charged with Strict Liability Drug Induced Death, first degree; Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance Within 1000 Feet of School Property, Third degree; Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, third degree; and Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, third degree.

On June 2, 2017, police responded to 14 Freehold Court in the Township of West Milford on a report of a possible overdose. Upon their arrival at the scene, the police discovered the victim, Maryann McKinnon, 33 years old from West Milford, unconscious and unresponsive. Attempts to revive Ms. McKinnon, including the deployment of Narcan, were unsuccessful. Ms. McKinnon was later pronounced deceased at Chilton Memorial Hospital. The subsequent investigation revealed that Mr. Spencer was the individual that sold the drugs which were ultimately ingested by Ms. McKinnon, resulting in her death. Mr. Spencer was taken into custody this morning without incident in the City of Paterson.

Cleveland D. Spencer is scheduled to appear at Central Judicial Processing on Friday, September 22, 2017 at 1:30, p.m. The State intends to file a motion for pretrial detention in this matter that will be heard by a Superior Court Judge.

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

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office asks anyone with additional information about this incident to contact us on our tips line at 1-877-370-PCPO or tips@passaiccountynj.org.

For media inquiries concerning this case, contact Chief Assistant Prosecutor Jason Statuto of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office at jstatuto@passaiccountynj.org or at (973) 837-7733.



(Photo: Cleveland D. Spencer)