



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office
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FIVE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH OPERATION TRIPLE PLAY

Paterson, New Jersey

December 6, 2017

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes, City of Passaic Police Chief Luis Guzman and the Drug Enforcement Administration, New Jersey Division, Special Agent in Charge Valerie A. Nickerson that as a result of a six month investigation, "Operation Triple Play," conducted by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office-Narcotics Task Force, the City of Passaic Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration into a heroin, cocaine and marijuana distribution operation that extended throughout the city of Passaic and other surrounding municipalities in Essex and Bergen counties five individuals were arrested and charged with numerous narcotics offenses.

Raul Concepcion, Pedro Mangual, Leo Perez, Sharif Irving, and Persio Lora were arrested and charged on December 1, 2017 with numerous drug distribution related offenses stemming from the investigation. This investigation was assisted by members of the following prosecutor's offices and police departments; Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, Essex County Prosecutor's Office, Passaic County Sheriff's Office, Clifton, Ringwood, Totowa, Bloomingdale, West Milford, North Haledon, Woodland Park, Elmwood Park, and Garfield.

Raul Concepcion, age 29 of Belleville, NJ

- Distribution of CDS, Cocaine more than five ounces – a crime of the First Degree
- Possession of Weapon, Handgun – a crime of the Second Degree

- Certain Persons Not to Possess Weapons, Handgun – a crime of the Second Degree
- Distribution of CDS, Heroin more than one-half ounce but less than five ounces – a crime of Second Degree
- Conspiracy to Distribute CDS, Marijuana in excess of twenty five pounds– a crime of the Second Degree
- Distribution of CDS, Marijuana – more than one ounce but less than five pounds a crime of the Third Degree
- Possession of CDS, Heroin – a crime of Third Degree
- Possession of CDS, Cocaine – a crime of the Third Degree
- Possession of CDS, Marijuana – a crime of the Fourth Degree

Pedro Mangual, age 36 of Passaic, NJ

- Conspiracy to Distribute CDS, Cocaine more than five ounces – a crime of the Second Degree
- Distribution of CDS, Marijuana – more than one ounce but less than five pounds – a crime of the Third Degree
- Conspiracy to Distribute CDS, Marijuana more than one ounce but less than five pounds– a crime of Fourth Degree
- Possession of CDS, Marijuana – a crime of the Fourth Degree

Leo Perez, age 33 of Passaic, NJ

- Distribution of CDS, Marijuana more than five pounds but less than twenty five pounds– a crime of the Second Degree
- Conspiracy to Distribute CDS, Cocaine more than five ounces – a crime of Second Degree
- Possession of CDS Marijuana with Intent to Distribute within 1000 feet of a School – a crime of Third Degree
- Possession of CDS Cocaine with Intent to Distribute within 1000 feet of a School – a crime of Third Degree
- Possession of CDS, Marijuana – a crime of the Fourth Degree
- Conspiracy to Distribute CDS, Marijuana more than one ounce but less than five pounds– a crime of Fourth Degree

Sharif Irving, age 35 of Garfield, NJ

- Maintaining or Operating a Controlled Dangerous Substance Production Facility – a crime of the First Degree

Persio Lora, age 22 of Garfield, NJ

- Possession of Weapon, Handgun – a crime of the Second Degree

In or about June 2017, the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office received information that there were individuals distributing large amounts of heroin, cocaine and marijuana in the City of Passaic and surrounding municipalities in the Counties of Bergen and Essex. The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, the City of Passaic Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration launched an extensive six month investigation into the activities of Raul Concepcion and Pedro Mangual.

As a result of the investigation and as of today's date, the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office seized:

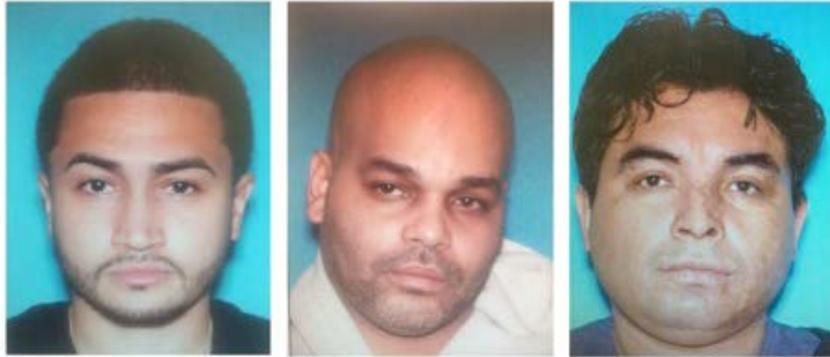
- approximately 75 grams of suspected heroin, estimated at a street value of \$5,000 dollars,
- over 1 pound of cocaine with a street value of \$17,000 dollars,
- over 12 pounds of marijuana with a street value of \$50,000 dollars
- and approximately \$42,000 cash believed to be drug proceeds
- along with 1 handgun and
- 2 vehicles.

The first-degree charges carry a maximum sentence of twenty years in prison, the second-degree charges carry a maximum sentence of ten years in prison, the third-degree charges carry a maximum sentence of five years in prison, while the fourth-degree charges carry a maximum sentence of eighteen months in prison.

Central Judicial Processing was conducted on Saturday, December 2, 2017 in the Criminal Division, Superior Court of New Jersey, Passaic Vicinage. The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office filed a motion to detain all five defendants, on December 6, 2017. Defendants Raul Concepcion and Sharif Irving were detained by Judge Joseph Portelli. Defendants Pedro Mangual, Leo Perez, and Persio Lora were released subject to monitoring by Pre-Trial Services.

Any inquiries may be directed to Passaic County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Paul DeGroot. He can be reached at (973) 837-7671 or pdegroot@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.



Raul Concepcion

Pedro Mangual

Leo Perez



Persio Lora



Sharif Irving