

**Bristol County District Attorney's Office**  
**C. Samuel Sutter District Attorney**

**Press Release**  
**July 22, 2010**

District Attorney Sam Sutter announced today that a multi-agency large-scale illegal drug investigation dubbed "Operation Diesel" resulted in the arrest of 30 individuals in the City of Taunton yesterday and today. In total, more than 50 people have been or will be charged as a result of this joint operation.

The Massachusetts State Police Unit assigned to District Attorney Sutter's office led this year-long investigation into illegal narcotics distribution in the Fairfax Gardens housing complex on Dewert Avenue in Taunton. District Attorney Sutter's office was assisted by numerous local, state and federal partners including the Taunton Police; The Raynham Police; State Police Units assigned to the Plymouth County, Suffolk County, and Cape and Islands District Attorneys' Offices; the State Police Special Tactical Operations Unit; the State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Squad; various State Police Gang Units; the State Police D-Troop CAT Team; the State Police Air Wing; the Massachusetts State Police Fusion Center; the New England State Police Information Network and a federal task force known as the HITDA Group.

The investigation was coordinated by District Attorney Sutter's Chief of Drug Prosecutions, Assistant District Attorney Stephen Butts.

The investigation was initiated in 2009 when the State Police Unit assigned to District Attorney Sam Sutter's Office investigated a fatal drug overdose of a Taunton man. That investigation led to a large-scale narcotics investigation into the distribution, storage and trafficking of illegal narcotics within the Fairfax Gardens Housing Complex. Fairfax Gardens is known on the street as "Dewert". The main narcotic being sold within "Dewert" is heroin, however this investigation did not limit itself to just the heroin trade.

As the investigation continued, it grew in scale to include other areas of Taunton, including the Paul Bunker Housing Complex.

As a result of this investigation, there have been approximately 51 defendants charged with offenses including trafficking in heroin, which ranged in weights of over 14 grams up to 144 grams. There have also been numerous crack cocaine distribution charges levied against defendants targeted in this operation. There have been 10 individuals charged who were directly indicted in the Superior Court, along with another 24 persons charged and arrest warrants issued for District Court. An additional 17 defendants have either already been arrested or are waiting to be summonsed to court on various narcotics and motor vehicle charges. In addition to the numerous arrests, investigators seized two motor vehicles and a motorcycle, which are believed to have been used in furtherance of said illegal activities or purchased with illegal drug proceeds. Cash believed to be profits from the illegal drug trade and properties have also been seized as a result of this operation.

The success of this operation could not have been achieved without the assistance and cooperation of numerous law enforcement groups.

As the operation remains ongoing, no further information can be revealed at this time. A list of the individuals arrested during yesterday's portion of the operation is attached to this e-mail.

---- "These 51 arrests and indictments were the result of a year-long investigation, which involved cooperation and collaboration between prosecutors from my office, City of Taunton detectives, and State Police detectives," **said Bristol County District Attorney Sam Sutter.** "Those individuals engaged in illegal drug dealing in Bristol County should know that all of us in law enforcement are committed to finding out whom each and every one of you are, building cases against you and then getting you arrested and convicted. "

---- "I want to applaud the efforts of District Attorney Sam Sutter, Taunton Police Chief Edward Walsh and the members of the State Police Unit for their extraordinary efforts in leading the task force to take the drug dealers off our city streets," **said Taunton Mayor Charles Crowley.** "A successful operation like this requires teamwork and the citizens of my community are grateful for the team effort displayed during Operation Diesel"

---- "This operation reflects the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies working in true partnership to address issues of crime in the community," **said Taunton Police Chief Edward James Walsh.** "In a time of diminishing resources, we were able to leverage assets from both agencies to achieve a common goal. Hopefully this will be one of many future successful collaborations."

---- "Police-wise it is extremely important to routinely be breaking up these criminal networks and conspiracies, of equal importance is the leadership shown by the District Attorney's Office in creating a professional collaborative climate where all of the state, local and county law enforcement agencies can cooperate and work together to make our communities a safer and a better place to live. Every one of our communities pays a price for these problems, with house break, robberies, thefts, and prostitution. We all have to work together to keep it under control," **Raynham Police Chief Louis Pacheco said.** "In these tough economic times it is great seeing law enforcement working together helping each other."

#### **Operation Diesel** **Arrests from July 21**

- Edgard Quinones-Ortiz, age 20, of 20 Meadow Street, distribution of a Class A drug.
- Tomas Ortiz, age 21, of 8 Earl Street, possession of a Class A drug with will to distribute.
- Alexander Torres, age 37, of 403 Washington Street, distribution of a Class A drug.
- Damian Carrasquillo, age 21, of 24 Second Street, conspiracy to violate drug law.

- Michael Almodovar, age 17, of 53 Paul Bunker Drive, distribution of a Class A drug.
- Alonzo Lopes, age 21, of 155 Oak Street, distribution of a Class B drug.
- Darius Jones, age 17, of 1 Kilmer Avenue, distribution of a counterfeit drug.
- Samantha Silva, age 20, of 22 Church Street, conspiracy to violate drug law.
- Adam Johnson, age 25, of 82 Cohannet Street, distribution of a Class A drug.
- Tiffany Collazo, age 21, of 206 School Street, conspiracy to violate drug law.
- Juan Padua Jr., age 18, of 42.5 Cottage Street, distribution of a Class A drug.
- Daryl Perkins, age 32, of 82 Cohannet Street, conspiracy to violate drug law.
- Kristen Burke, age 26, of 48 Dewert Avenue, trafficking, manufacturing and distributing a Class A drug.
- Tonya Ferguson, age 39, of 7 Atwood Street, distribution of a Class B drug.
- Ralph Brown, age 36, of 89 Ashland Street, distribution of a Class B drug.
- Maynard Davis, age 33, of 208 Bay Street, distributing cocaine.
- Westley Amador-Cintron, age 20, of 50 Dewert Avenue, trafficking cocaine, conspiracy to violate drug law and drug violation near a school or park.
- Raul J. Padua, age 29, of 128 Dewert Avenue, distribution of a Class A drug.
- Rolando Miranda, age 24, of 126 Dewert Avenue, malicious destruction of over 250 dollars worth of property.
- 16-year-old juvenile male, distribution of a Class A drug.
- Shawn Oller, age 34, of 68 Broadway, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.
- Terrence Wrightington, age 21, of 2 Harrison Street, distribution of a Class A drug.
- Deion McCassie, age 20, of 8 Silver Street, conspiracy to violate drug law.
- Xavier Ramos, age 20, of 26 Talbot Avenue, distribution of a Class A drug.

- Peter Hicks, age 21, of 89 Dewert Avenue, distribution of a Class A drug.
- Anthony Rezendes, age 50, of 43 Winthrop Street, distributing cocaine.
- Jeffrey Bird, age 30, of 57 Winthrop Street, distributing cocaine.
- Trevor R. Heggs, age 22, of 30 Newcomb Place, distributing cocaine.
- Jose Avelino, age 18, of 21 Godfrey Street, conspiracy to violate drug law.