

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

Press Release

August 23, 2010

District Attorney Sam Sutter announced today that 15 people associated with a high level drug dealing enterprise doing business in Greater Taunton were arrested during a warrant sweep in Taunton and Raynham.

The arrests were the result of another successful wiretap investigation instituted by District Attorney Sutter's office.

The multi-agency warrant sweep concluded a two-month-long investigation led by District Attorney Sutter's Office. Seven different locations in Taunton and Raynham were targeted during today's warrant executions. More than \$28,000 in cash, an illegal firearm, ammunition and a vehicle were all seized during today's initiative.

The organization mainly dealt in cocaine.

The investigation was coordinated by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Butts. The agencies involved in this extensive investigation into this drug distribution organization and today's warrant sweep include the Raynham Police Department, the Taunton Police Department, the State Police Drug Unit assigned to District Attorney Sutter's office, the State Police Gang Unit, State Police Detectives assigned to the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office, The U.S. Postal Inspectors, the North Attleboro Police Department, the Norton Police Department, the State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Unit, the State Police STOP Team, the State Police K9 Unit, the New England State Police Information Network and New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program

"There are two main points here. First, we are continuing our use of court-ordered electronic surveillance or wiretaps, just as I said I would when I was running for district attorney four years ago. Through this technique, we have targeted, arrested and convicted some of the biggest drug dealers in Bristol County," District Attorney Sutter said. "Second, we had 13 different agencies involved in this operation. That exemplifies another one of our hallmarks, and that is law enforcement agencies sharing information and working together in joint operations to ferret out crime and make our county safer."

The three targets of the investigation were Thomas Jeffries, 32, of Taunton, charged with 18 counts of conspiracy to violate the drugs laws and one count of possessing an illegal firearm; Jose Fernandes, 24, of Taunton, charged with 10 counts of conspiracy to violate the drug laws; and Brian Lacombe, 23, of Taunton, charged with 14 counts of conspiracy to violate the drug laws and possessing a class B drug.

Others arrested during today's warrant sweeps include:

- Krystal Fernandes, 29, of Taunton, conspiracy to violate the drug laws, and possession with intent to distribute Class B, C and D drugs.
- Paul McCone, 38, of Taunton, five counts of conspiracy to violate the drug laws.
- Michelle Morrison, 24, of Taunton, conspiracy to violate the drug laws.
- Kathleen Soule, 21, of Taunton, conspiracy to violate the drug laws, and distribution of Class B and D drugs.
- Gregory St. Martin, 35, of Taunton, conspiracy to violate the drug laws.
- Dana Avelar 37, of Taunton, three counts of conspiracy to violate the drug laws.
- Meredith Kirby, 26, of Taunton, two counts of conspiracy to violate the drug laws.
- Peter Perry, 35, of Middleboro, conspiracy to violate the drug laws.
- Felicia Kearney, 22, of Taunton, two counts of conspiracy to violate the drug laws.

- Teisha Johnson, 26, of Taunton, two counts of conspiracy to violate the drug laws.
- Lou Rey Zavala, 35, of Taunton, two counts of conspiracy to violate the drug laws.
- Joseph Gomes Jr., 32, of Taunton, two counts of conspiracy to violate the drug laws.