



NEWS RELEASE

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

FIVE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH A HEROIN DISTRIBUTION OPERATION

Paterson, New Jersey

November 13, 2017

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes, Passaic County Sheriff Richard Berdnik and the DEA New Jersey Division Assistant Special Agent in Charge Dennis Mihalopoulos announce that as a result of a six month investigation conducted by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Task Force, the Passaic County Sheriff's Department and the Drug Enforcement Agency into a heroin distribution operation that extended throughout the County of Passaic and into the Bronx, NY. The below five individuals were arrested and charged on November 13, 2017 with numerous drug distribution related offenses stemming from the investigation. This investigation was assisted by members of the following police departments; Wayne, Clifton, Ringwood, Totowa, Bloomingdale, Elmwood Park, West Milford, North Haledon, Woodland Park, Passaic and the Manhattan Special Narcotics Prosecutor.

Faustino E. Acosta-Jaquez, age 33 of Paterson NJ

Possession of CDS, Heroin – crime of Third Degree

Possession of CDS, Heroin in excess of five ounces with intent to distribute – crime of First Degree

Possession of CDS, Heroin with intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school – crime of Third Degree

Conspiracy to distribute CDS, Heroin in excess of five ounces – crime of Second Degree

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

James R. Brown, age 48 of Paterson, NJ

Possession of CDS, Heroin– crime of Third Degree

Possession of CDS, Heroin in excess of one half ounce but less than five ounces with intent to distribute– crime of Second Degree

Conspiracy to distribute CDS, Heroin in excess of five ounces – crime of Second Degree

Tirrell Singletary, age 27 of Paterson, NJ

Possession of CDS, Heroin– crime of Third Degree

Possession of CDS, Heroin in excess of one half ounce but less than five ounces with intent to distribute– crime of Second Degree

Possession of CDS, Heroin with intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school– crime of Third Degree

Conspiracy to distribute CDS, Heroin in excess of five ounces – crime of Second Degree

Jamel Palmer, age 28 of Paterson, NJ

Conspiracy to distribute CDS, Heroin in excess of one half ounce but less than five ounces – crime of Third Degree

Leopoldo Abreu Evangelista, age 60 of Bronx, NY

Conspiracy to distribute CDS, Heroin in excess of five ounces – crime of Second Degree

In or about June 2017, the Passaic County Prosecutor’s Office received information that there was an individual distributing large amounts of heroin in the County of Passaic. The Passaic County Prosecutor’s Office, the Passaic County Sheriff’s Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration launched an extensive six month investigation into the activities of Faustino Acosta-Jaquez.

As a result of the investigation and as of today’s date, approximately 337 grams of suspected heroin, estimated at a street value of \$25,000 dollars, upwards of \$9771 cash and 2 vehicles were seized.

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

Central Judicial Processing is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2017 in the Criminal Division, Superior Court of New Jersey, Passaic Vicinage at 1:30 p.m. The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office has filed a motion to detain all five defendants, which will be before the Honorable Donna Gallucio, a judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey, on November 17, 2017 at 9 am.

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.



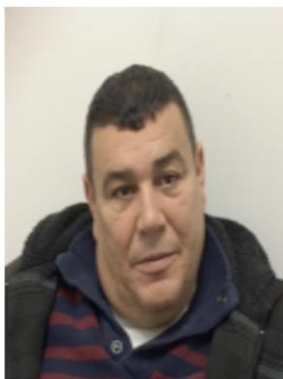
Faustino E. Acosta- Jaquez



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