

Press Release

An intensive, three-month drug investigation culminated on Friday, March 1, 2002 when Police Officers executed eight search warrants on residences in the Willow Grove and Crestmont sections of Abington Township. Arrest warrants were served and 14 individuals were taken into custody. The investigation was conducted jointly by Abington Police Department, The Montgomery County District Attorney's Narcotics Enforcement Team, and the Montgomery County Drug Task Force. During the investigation, over 40 purchases of cocaine were made and documented.

The warrant service began shortly after 6 A.M. on Friday. Approximately 75 police officers, operating in small teams, served the warrants, searched the houses, and made the arrests. During the service of the search warrants, three handguns, various quantities of marijuana and cocaine, approximately \$9,000 in cash, and one vehicle, were seized. Most of those arrested were in the various residents that were searched. They include: Martin Grasty age 33, 1657 Park Avenue, Willow Grove (had one ounce of cocaine, over \$7,000 in cash, and a handgun in his possession when arrested); Douglas Davis, age 49, 917 Jenkintown Road, Elkins Park; Stanley Webb, age 27, 6023 N. Park, Philadelphia; Gatefred Bivins, age 30, 2926 Woodland Road, Roslyn; Sherman Ford, age 49, 1643 Prospect Avenue, Willow Grove; Nathaniel Green, age 33, 2637 Phipps Avenue, Willow Grove; Michael Twyman, age 48, 1538 Fairview Avenue, Willow Grove; Anthony Deans, age 44, 1513 Rothley Avenue, Willow Grove; James Jason Vaughn, age 19, 1538 Fairview Avenue, Willow Grove; Gwendolyn Heath, age 54, 1555 Rothley Avenue, Willow Grove; Gerald Maurice Raymond, age 32, 1650 Franklin Avenue, Willow Grove; Richard Liggins, age 33, 1562 Grovania Avenue, Abington; Eric Vaughn, age 32, 1574 Prospect Avenue, Willow Grove; Eric Stubbs, age 22, 1249 East Avenue, Roslyn. All were taken into custody without incident and there were no injuries. All were charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, which is a felony. All suspects were arraigned Friday afternoon by District Justice Joseph Dougherty and bail was set at \$50,000 cash for all suspects except Martin Grasty, whose bail was set at \$100,000. In addition, Ford, Raymond, and Stubbs were found to be currently on Probation and detainers were immediately lodged against them for violating their probation. Nathaniel Green was on State Parole and a parole violation detainer was lodged against him (Pennsylvania State Parole agents and Montgomery County Probation/Parole Agents participated in the raids). All suspects were transported to Montgomery County Correctional Facility to await their hearing which has been scheduled for March 8 at 1:00 P.M. in front of District Justice Joseph Dougherty.

The investigation is continuing and additional arrests are anticipated as investigators review and analyze evidence seized during the service of the warrants. These will likely include additional charges against some of those already arrested as well as charges against some who have not yet been arrested.

Participating in the raids were officers from Abington Police, The Montgomery County District Attorney's Narcotics Enforcement Team, Pennsylvania State Police, and a number of other, local police departments, whose officers were operating under the authority of the Montgomery County Drug Task Force. At the same time the raids in Abington were occurring, Cheltenham Police served a search warrant at a residence in their Township and arrested one individual who had links to the police activity in Abington.

Approved for Release by: D/Lt. John A. Livingood
Date: March 3, 2002