



Cape May County Prosecutor's Office

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NEWS

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County Prosecutor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2007

Cape May Court House, New Jersey – County Prosecutor Robert L. Taylor reported today that a significant drug distribution network operating in the southern portion of Cape May County has been eliminated. Members of the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Task Force initiated the eighteen-month long investigation into the activities of 29-year-old Stephen G. Grasch of Green Creek and his father, 59-year-old Albert T. Grasch, Sr. of North Cape May.

The investigation was brought to a conclusion when investigators interrupted the sale of over 4 ounces of cocaine by Stephen DiCristofaro of Medford, New Jersey to Stephen Grasch on Saturday evening. Consequently, forty members of the Cape May County Regional SWAT Team spread out throughout Middle and Lower Township to simultaneously execute search and arrest warrants at three locations. The residences of Stephen, Albert Sr., and Stephen's mother, Karen Grasch were locations searched with Court authorized search warrants. Approximately \$26,000 cash, 4 ½ ounces of cocaine estimated at a street value of \$13,000.00, over 600 prescription pills including Xanax, hydrocodone and anabolic steroids estimated at a street value of \$3500.00, and four motor vehicles were among the items seized during the searches.

The following persons were arrested:

Stephen G. Grasch, 29 years
900 South Route 47, Green Creek, NJ
Charges: Leader of a Narcotics Distribution Network (1st Degree)
Bail: \$500,000.00 Cash. Held in Cape May County Jail.

Albert T. Grasch Sr., 57 years
506 Washington Blvd., North Cape May, NJ
Charges: Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine (3rd Degree), Endangering the Welfare of a Child (2nd Degree), Distribution of Cocaine over a ½ ounce (2nd Degree).
Bail: \$ 200,000.00 Cash for the first 2 charges and additional \$200,000.00 cash for the other charge. Held in Cape May County Jail.

Stephen DiCristofaro, 46 years
7 Rams Court, Medford, NJ
Charges: Distribution of CDS (2nd Degree)
Bail: 100,000.00 Cash. Held in Cape May County Jail

Karen M. Grasch, 57 years
120 Vermont Avenue, Villas, NJ
Charges: Distribution of CDS (3rd Degree).
Bail: \$100,000.00 ROR, Released ROR

Arthur W. Creamer, 58 years
301 Washington Blvd., North Cape May, NJ
Charges: Conspiracy to Distribute CDS (3rd Degree), Obstruction (4th degree),
Hindering, (3rd Degree).
Bail: \$200,000.00 ROR. Released ROR

Hector R. Velez, 35 years
3449 Helen Street, Philadelphia, PA
Charges: Possession of CDS (3rd Degree) and Distribution of CDS (2nd Degree)
Bail: \$25,000.00 Cash. Held in Cape May County Jail

Emma D. Velez, 34 years
8030 Ditman Street, Philadelphia, PA
Charges: Possession of CDS (3rd Degree) and Distribution of CDS (2nd Degree)
Bail: \$25,000.00 Cash. Held in Cape May County Jail

Persons convicted of being a leader (Kingpin) of a narcotics distribution network (1st degree crime) may be sentenced up to life imprisonment in the New Jersey State Prison during which the person must serve 25 years before being eligible for parole. Persons convicted of a second degree crime may be sentenced between 5 and 10 years in the New Jersey State Prison, and between 3 and 5 years for a third degree crime.

Prosecutor Taylor said the investigation was a cooperative effort involving the following agencies: County Prosecutor's Office; the North Wildwood Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration, both of whom have officers assigned to the Narcotics Task Force; Middle Township, Lower Township and Cape May Police Departments as well as the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, Organized Crime Unit. In addition to these agencies, the following assisted in the execution of the arrest and search warrants: Cape May County Sheriff's Department Canine Unit and the New Jersey State Police.

Prosecutor Taylor stated that civil forfeiture actions were filed today by the Prosecutor's Office in the Superior Court of New Jersey seeking the forfeiture of the real property known as 506 Washington Boulevard, North Cape May, New Jersey owned by Albert and Karen Grasch as well as 900 Route 47, Green Creek, New Jersey owned by Stephen Grasch. Forfeiture actions are also anticipated on the seized vehicles and funds.

The investigation is ongoing and additional arrests are anticipated.