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PRESS RELEASE: Fentanyl Pill Distribution Arrests, 5.9.17

“OPERATION PRESS YOUR LUCK”

May 11, 2017

The Franklin County Drug Task Force (“FCDTF”) has been conducting an investigation into the distribution of fentanyl pills by a group of individuals in the Chambersburg area. Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid analgesic that is similar to morphine, but is 50 to 100 times more potent than heroin. Fentanyl is a Schedule II controlled substance and is typically used to treat patients with severe pain or manage pain post-surgery. Fentanyl can be inadvertently inhaled or absorbed through the skin from contact with the substance and can occur during seizures by law enforcement officers. The presence of fentanyl in heroin is on the rise leading to an increase in overdoses and deaths. Fentanyl is also being pressed into pill form and illegally sold as legitimate narcotic pills.

On May 9, 2017, the FCDTF and the PA State Police Troop H Vice Unit executed a search warrant at BAK Storage units on Horst Lane in Hamilton Township. As a result of the search, evidence was recovered indicating a pill manufacturing operation, specifically, the manufacture of fentanyl pills that had been identified earlier during the investigation. Two pill presses, approximately 18,000 fentanyl pills, cutting agents, and suspected fentanyl powder was seized from the location, along with packaging and distribution paraphernalia. For reference concerning the scope of this seizure, a single fentanyl pill is currently purchased for \$35/pill. As such, the seizure in **Operation Press Your Luck** has taken approximately \$600,000 worth of fentanyl off the street and out of circulation. It will now be destroyed and never used to wreak havoc on the lives and health of our citizens.



On May 10, 2017, investigators arrested Nathan Anthony Ott, 33 years of age, of 360 Falling Spring Road, Chambersburg. Ott was arrested at the Holiday Inn Express, Chambersburg, and was identified as the person responsible for the manufacture and distribution of fentanyl pills related to this investigation.

Investigators also executed a search warrant at Ott's home at 360 Falling Spring Road, and seized computers and computer equipment related to the investigation, which are believed to be the method which Ott used to acquire the products needed to manufacture the pills.

Nathan Ott was charged with the Manufacture and Delivery of a Controlled Substance. Ott was arraigned by MDJ David Plum and denied bail. His preliminary hearing is scheduled for May 23, 2107 at 8:15 A.M.



The scourge of heroin is a daily and constant focus of the FCDTF, in an effort to punish the guilty and protect the lives of users and would be users, and their suffering families. Our efforts are constant and relentless, and heroin dealers have already been warned that there is absolutely no safe place to hide in Franklin County. They will be caught, captured, and held to account for the destruction they have wrought. Defeating this scourge remains the cause of a generation of law enforcement officers, and we will prevail. Failure is not an option.

The spirit of unity and the fight within this community, related to the current opioid epidemic, is truly heartening. We are truly in this together. This particular case and investigation, along with many others, actually began with a “citizen tip.” We constantly receive tips, and act upon them. We encourage the citizens of this community to continue to stay vigilant as well, and to forward tips and information to the FCDTF. Anyone with information regarding this investigation or other drug activity occurring within Franklin County is asked to contact the FCDTF at 1-800-344-3127 or by email at tips@drugtaskforce.org. Anonymous tips may also be submitted through our website: www.drugtaskforce.org. All information provided is confidential and callers may remain anonymous if they wish.

The investigation is continuing and future arrests are anticipated of others involved in the drug distribution network.

The following agencies participated in this investigation, along with the FCDTF:

1. Chambersburg Police Department
2. Pennsylvania State Police, Troop H Vice Unit
3. Pennsylvania State Police, Chambersburg Station
4. Shippensburg Police Department

5. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Capital City Safe Streets Task Force

6. Franklin County District Attorney's Office

**NOTE: The defendants are accused of the above offenses, and readers are reminded that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*