



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
RICHMOND COUNTY

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MICHAEL E. MCMAHON  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

130 STUYVESANT PLACE  
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301  
TELEPHONE (718) 876-6300

## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Douglas Auer (718) 556-7150

[Douglas.Auer@rcda.nyc.gov](mailto:Douglas.Auer@rcda.nyc.gov)

### **D.A. McMahon announces takedown of 10 drug dealers on felony charges**

***\*\*\* Targets sold heroin and cocaine in and around the Stapleton community\*\*\****

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon and NYPD Commissioner William J. Bratton today announced the takedown of 10 drug dealers who sold heroin and cocaine in and around Stapleton, as well as other North Shore locales. Three additional defendants were arrested during search warrant executions that yielded quantities of narcotics and related paraphernalia. An arrest warrant was also issued for one individual that remains unapprehended.

“These dealers peddled poison in communities that are fed up with the influx of drugs on their streets. This takedown is the first of many targeted drug sweeps my office will be doing with the NYPD in a concentrated effort to reclaim our borough from the plague of heroin that has ensnared it for far too long,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon. “I want to commend my prosecutors for their hard work on this case. I also want to thank Police Commissioner William J. Bratton and the men and women of the NYPD for their continued efforts to rid Staten Island of the drug scourge. And, let this serve as a warning to the dealers who operate in this borough: We will be taking back our neighborhoods from your ilk, one street corner at a time if need be. As far as I’m concerned, one drug sale is one sale too many.”

“Stemming the flow of dangerous narcotics in our communities remains a top priority for the NYPD,” said Police Commissioner William J. Bratton. “The investigators from Narcotics Borough Staten Island, along with the Staten Island District Attorney’s Office, put themselves in harm’s way to build a strong case against these local drug dealers. I commend their dedication in protecting the people of Staten Island.”

The 10-month investigation began in March 2015 and was dubbed “Hit the Town,” a double reference to taking a “hit” of heroin and “the Town,” as Stapleton is often referred to by street dealers. Other communities where the defendants dealt include Port Richmond, West Brighton, Tompkinsville and Arlington Terrace.

The defendants are: **JOSE SANTOS** and **RAMON PANTALEON**, both suppliers, and **DANIEL CORDERO**, **JOEL BADILLO**, **FELIX VASQUEZ**, **ALBERTO CORNETT**, **RONALD BELL**, **WILLIAM SHEDRICK**, **DANIEL AMADOR**, and **CARLOS RIVERA** all dealers.

Almost all of the defendants have had prior contact with the criminal justice system, including SANTOS, who did four stints in state prison all on drug-related crimes; CORNETT, who served time for Attempted Robbery 2, and SHEDRICK, who was behind bars on a drug-related conviction.

Search warrants executed at six locations yielded quantities of cocaine, heroin, marijuana and suboxone, as well as packaging paraphernalia such as rubber bands, a scale, ink and a stamp pad, plastic baggies and glassine envelopes.

Arrested during the execution of search warrants were: **IRIS CARILLO; JACQUELINE SMITH, AND SONIA MORA.**

The charges contained in the criminal complaints are merely allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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The prosecution of the case is being supervised by Assistant District Attorney Karen Varriale, Chief of the Narcotics Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Joe Gim, Chief of the Crime Strategies Unit.

The lead NYPD investigator on the case is Detective Andrew Fago of Narcotics Borough Staten Island, acting under the supervision of Sgt. Kenneth Tysdal, Lieutenant Dominick Capuano and Captain Dominick D'Orazio.