



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHMOND COUNTY

MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release on Tuesday March 28, 2017

Contact: Ryan Lavis (718) 556-7150

Ryan.Lavis@rcda.nyc.gov

D.A. McMahon and NYPD Commissioner James P. O'Neill Announce Takedown of South Shore Heroin Distribution Ring

Wiretap investigation yields 3,284 glassines of heroin, worth approximately \$20,000; Main target made majority of drug sales on the South Shore

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon and NYPD Commissioner James P. O'Neill today announced the takedown of a heroin distribution ring that operated predominately on the South Shore of Staten Island. The main target, **Anthony Olsovi**, 45, is accused of selling more than 3,200 glassines of heroin to NYPD undercover officers over the course of the investigation. Six additional defendants were also indicted for varying drug-dealing charges, with **Olsovi** facing top-count charges of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree. He has also been charged with Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree for his role in the operation.

“We are committed to going after the drug dealers and dismantling their distribution networks in order to disrupt the flow of heroin in our communities,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon. “This investigation resulted in a large amount of heroin being taken off the street – and at a time when too many lives have already been lost to the disease of addiction illness, it is vital to our mission that we do all we can to keep dealers from preying on the vulnerable. I commend the NYPD and my prosecutors for their hard work on this case and vow that together we will continue working to beat the drug scourge and make Staten Island a safer place.”

“The NYPD and the Staten Island District Attorney are committed to fighting the alarming rise in opioid overdoses,” said Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill. “This takedown, which involved the sale of thousands of bags of heroin on the South Shore of Staten Island, underscores our focus on targeting drug distributors. Stemming the flow of heroin and providing help to users will enable us to save lives.”

The 10-month investigation began in June 2016 and was dubbed “Southern Comfort,” because the majority of the drug sales occurred on the South Shore of Staten Island. The investigation was conducted using wiretaps and surveillance, with NYPD officers leading undercover sales with the defendants at various locations. **Olsovi** was at the nexus of the distribution ring, making 16 separate sales and peddling a total of

3,284 glassines of heroin worth approximately \$20,000. The other defendants assisted in several of these sales. The bulk of the heroin sold was being transported from New Jersey.

The defendants are: **Anthony Olsovi, Steven Lanigan, Denise Kurtz, Kristen Colon, Steven Maiurro, Christopher Arena, and Tanya Cardillo.**

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

=====

The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant District Attorneys Antonia Assenso and Jane Grinberg under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Michele Molfetta, Deputy Chief of the Narcotics-Investigations Bureau.

The lead NYPD investigator on the case is Detective John Fahim, acting under the supervision of Deputy Inspector Dominick D'Orazio and Sgt. Ignazio Conca of Criminal Enterprise Investigations.

-End-