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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. McMahon: Staten Island Duo Indicted for Selling Fentanyl and Heroin

Drugs sold by one defendant linked to fatal overdose of 18-year-old woman

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that two men have been indicted for making numerous heroin and fentanyl sales on Staten Island.

The investigation utilized information obtained through the Staten Island Overdose Response Initiative created last year by District Attorney McMahon and the NYPD. This initiative allows law enforcement to investigate overdose deaths in an effort to root out drug dealers and offer supportive services to grieving families. In this case, the drugs sold by one of the defendants, **Victor Berlin**, were linked to the overdose death of an 18-year-old Staten Island woman.

“Through the Overdose Response Initiative we were able to link the drugs sold by one of the defendants to the fatal overdose of a young woman. Both defendants have now been indicted and are facing numerous counts of criminal sale and possession of heroin and fentanyl,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon. “This is exactly the type of result we were seeking when my office and the NYPD began the Overdose Response Initiative last year. By investigating each tragic death and tracing the source of the drugs we are holding dealers more accountable for the lives and families that they have destroyed.”

The defendants are: **Victor Berlin**, 22, and **Deshawn Bracey**, 27.

According to the indictment and documents filed in court, defendant **Berlin** sold heroin and/or fentanyl to undercover police officers on nine occasions between December 2016 and March 2017. Defendant **Bracey** is accused of making one sale of heroin and fentanyl during the same time period. A majority of the sales were conducted in the Dongan Hills section of Staten Island.

To date, investigations stemming from the Overdose Response Initiative have led to three major drug takedowns on Staten Island and the arrest of more than a dozen dealers. Additionally, this office and the NYPD have recently executed four other major drug takedowns, which include the arrest of close to 60 dealers.

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

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The prosecution of this case is being handled by ADA Antonia Assenso under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Karen Varriale, Chief of the Narcotics-Investigations Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Michele Molfetta, Deputy Chief of the Narcotics-Investigations Bureau.

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Defendant Information:

Victor Berlin
DOB 3/16/1995
103 Jefferson Street, SI, NY

Deshawn Bracey
DOB 7/29/1989
83 Crescent Avenue, SI, NY

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