



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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For Immediate Release:

8 SEARCH & SEIZURE WARRANTS SERVED IN DOWNTOWN OCEAN CITY

On March 3, 2010, at approximately 04:15 a.m., the Ocean City Police Departments Narcotics Unit concluded a long-term drug distribution investigation involving eight separate units of the downtown "Parrot Lagoon Apartment" complex in Ocean City Maryland. The investigation culminated with the simultaneous service of eight Search and Seizure Warrants at the eight separate apartments.

The OCPD was supported by law enforcement personnel from the Worcester County States Attorney's Office, Tactical Teams from the Worcester and Wicomico Counties Sheriff's Departments as well as the OCPD's own Quick Response team. The multi-agency law enforcement partnerships and sharing of resources have been a crucial factor enabling all of the lower shore law enforcement organizations to successfully deal with several recent high profile criminal investigations.

The OCPD Narcotics unit was able to make seven arrests of suspects involved in the illegal distribution and possession of drugs in Ocean City. During the separate scene investigations, police located two wanted subjects, one of which (Jermaine Heath) was wanted for failing to appear in court for previous drug charges. The other subject (Bernie Johnson) was wanted by Wicomico County on unrelated charges. Investigators seized \$753 in U.S. currency, in addition to Methadone, Marijuana, and Crack Cocaine. Investigators have charged the following persons:

- **Thomas Gerard Brantley**, 26-years-old, of Ocean City, MD - Charged with: Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Methadone, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- **Melvin Harrell**, 53-years-old, of Ocean City - Charged with: Possession of Crack Cocaine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- **Jemain Heath**, 27-years-old, of Ocean City, MD - Charged with: Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and was also wanted by the District Court for Failing to appear in court from a 2008 OCPD Drug Arrest.
- **Bernie Henry Johnson, Jr.**, 46-years-old, of Snow Hill, MD - Charged with: Outstand Arrest Warrant from Wicomico County.
- **Wontorey Ward**, 38-years-old, of Ocean City, MD - Charged with: Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- **Jason Knaub**, 36-years-old, of Ocean City, MD - Charged with: Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- **Nathaniel Johnson**, 23-years-old, of Ocean City, MD - Charged with: Possession of Crack Cocaine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

All of the suspects are awaiting an initial appearance by an Ocean City District Court Commissioner.

March 3, 2010 CC#201000516

Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. OCPD@ococcean.com

For additional public safety information, go to the Official OCPD Blog at: <http://ocpdmdinfo.blogspot.com> or view real-time public safety advisories on "Twitter" by searching OCPDMDInfo.



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