



OFFICE OF THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

ANGELO J. ONOFRI
Prosecutor

209 S. Broad Street, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, New Jersey 08650-0068
Phone: (609) 989-6350
mercercountyprosecutor.com

JENNIFER DOWNING-MATHIS
First Assistant Prosecutor

JESSICA PLUMERI
Chief of County Detectives

BRYAN COTTRELL
Deputy Chief of County Detectives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 18, 2023

CONTACT: Casey A. DeBlasio
cdeblasio@mercercounty.org

\$40,000 in Heroin Seized by the Mercer County Narcotics Task Force

A month-long investigation into narcotics distribution in the Mercer County area has culminated with one arrest and the seizure of \$40,000 in heroin, Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri reported.

On Monday, October 16, 2023, members of the Mercer County Narcotics Task Force, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Ewing, Hamilton and Trenton police, initiated surveillance in the parking lot of the River's Edge Apartments on Country Lane in Ewing Township based on information received during the investigation. At approximately 8:30 p.m., officers observed the target of the investigation, Onasis Santos-Estevez, arrive in a red Mitsubishi Outlander. The driver and Santos-Estevez were detained without incident. Sgt. Tom Paglione utilized his K-9 partner, Indy, to conduct an exterior sniff of the vehicle, which resulted in Indy alerting to the scent of narcotics on the rear passenger side door. A search warrant was executed and, inside of the Outlander, detectives located a blue reusable shopping bag containing approximately 200 bricks of heroin under the front passenger seat.

Santos-Estevez, 47, of Philadelphia, PA, was charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance and possession with the intent to distribute. The prosecutor's office has filed a motion to detain him pending trial.

According to Prosecutor Onofri, the street value of the confiscated heroin is approximately \$40,000.

Despite having been charged, all persons are presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

###