



Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch
District of Rhode Island

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, October 30, 2017
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ri>
on Twitter @USAO_RI

CONTACT: Jim Martin
(401) 709-5357
email: USARI.Media@usdoj.gov

Multi-State Drug Trafficking Investigations Net More Than Two Dozen Defendants, Dozens of Kilos of Fentanyl and Cocaine

PROVIDENCE – Twenty-three individuals have been charged in federal court in Providence, two individuals have been charged in state courts in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and federal arrest warrants have been issued for several more individuals in connection with a series of wide-sweeping investigations that to date have resulted in the seizure of at least 45 kilograms of suspected fentanyl, cocaine and marijuana. It is believed that hundreds of kilograms of fentanyl and cocaine were moved through Rhode Island and Massachusetts by the drug trafficking organization targeted in these investigations.

The first strike by law enforcement occurred when members of law enforcement interrupted the delivery of a kilogram of suspected fentanyl on February 14, 2017, allegedly supplied by a Rhode Island man, earmarked for delivery in Bridgewater, Mass. That investigation expanded to encompass a series of investigations that, to date, has involved at least 36 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in six states and in the Dominican Republic.

At a press conference today, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island Stephen G. Dambruch, Resident Agent in Charge of the Providence office of the Drug Enforcement Administration Sam Masiello, and Colonel Ann C. Assumpico, Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police provided an overview of the investigations dubbed “Operation Panamera.”

During the course of the investigations, at least 23 kilograms of suspected fentanyl, 11 kilograms of cocaine, 11 kilograms of marijuana and two kilograms of psilocybin mushrooms were seized. The seizures were made as the drugs moved through the U.S. Postal Service; during traffic stops, including a traffic stop in Fairfield, Conn., on September 30, 2017, where 5 kilograms of suspected fentanyl, ultimately headed to Rhode Island for distribution, were seized; and the execution of court authorized searches of residences, storage units and vehicles where, for example, 5 kilograms of suspected fentanyl were seized from a residence in Norton, Mass., on September 30, 2017.

Among the individuals arrested and detained in federal custody is Ramon Delossantos, 24, of Cumberland, R.I., a Dominican national identified in court papers as the alleged leader of the drug trafficking organization. It is alleged that Delossantos was the source of the kilogram of fentanyl seized on February 14, 2017, in Bridgewater, Mass. It is also alleged in court documents that at least 50 kilograms of fentanyl and cocaine were trafficked by Delossantos or by individuals associated with Delossantos. The investigation determined that Delossantos allegedly utilized multiple telephones to avoid law enforcement detection as he allegedly facilitated the distribution of narcotics in New England.

with the use of “runners.” It is alleged that the deliveries varied from small quantities for users to kilograms quantities at a time for large scale distributors. Delossantos’ alleged mode of transportation during the alleged drug trafficking operation was a 2010 Porche Panamera Turbo. Delossantos was arrested on October 2, 2017, and his Porche Panamera was seized by law enforcement.

According to court documents, Delossantos, who has strong ties to the Dominican Republic, was previously convicted in Massachusetts and Rhode Island state courts on drug trafficking and firearms charges. Most recently, Delossantos was convicted and sentenced to the Adult Correctional Institutions in Rhode Island in December 2014 on firearms charges. An immigration detainer was lodged against Delossantos at that time by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Delossantos was released from the ACI upon completion of his prison sentence in May 2016.

Also detained in federal custody are Rinaxo M. Rufino, 33, of Miramar, FL., and Gabriel Concepcion, 27, of Kissimmee, FL., on a federal indictment charging them with conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine. They were arrested on August 26, 2017, and charged in connection with the seizure of more than 19 kilograms of cocaine shipped via the U.S. Postal Service from Puerto Rico to residences in Providence, Woonsocket and Central Falls. The packages were intercepted by U.S. Postal Inspectors. It is alleged in court documents that Rufino and Conception were associated with Delossantos.

“This cooperative effort is yet another example of the coordinated approach law enforcement employs to combat the scourge of illegal drug distribution, particularly the opioid epidemic that has hit RI and the entire country so hard during the last few years,” said Acting United States Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch. “Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 50. Unfortunately, Rhode Island has not been immune to this crisis. In 2016, 336 Rhode Islanders died from an overdose, with 195 of those deaths involving fentanyl. To put that number in perspective, we had 29 homicides and 53 traffic fatalities in Rhode Island during that same period. So, when someone says drug dealing is not a violent crime, think of those numbers.”

“DEA is committed to investigating and dismantling large scale poly drug trafficking organizations like this one operating in Rhode Island,” said DEA Special Agent in Charge Michael J. Ferguson. “The Delossantos drug trafficking operation was allegedly responsible for distributing multi-kilogram quantities of fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts. DEA and our law enforcement partners will aggressively pursue any group that distributes these poisons. This investigation demonstrates the strength of collaborative law enforcement and our strong partnership with the U.S. Attorney’s Office.”

Colonel Ann C. Assumpico, Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police and Director of the Department of Public Safety, said, “Rhode Islanders – and everyone throughout New England -- should be proud of the teamwork that went into this operation. Working together, we arrested more than two-dozen people. We seized 47 kilos of fentanyl, cocaine, marijuana and other illegal narcotics worth millions of dollars. We also saved lives. We can’t begin to imagine how many people could have died if we didn’t get those deadly drugs off our streets.”

Defendants being prosecuted in U.S. District Court in Providence are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Paul F. Daly, Jr., and William J. Ferland.

###



**R.I. State Police High Intensity
Drug Trafficking Area Task Force**

- Cumberland Police Department
- Lincoln Police Department
- Middletown Police Department
- Pawtucket Police Department
- RI Department of Corrections
- RI National Guard
- RI State Police
- West Warwick Police Department

Massachusetts Law Enforcement

- Barnstable Police Department
- Franklin Police Department
- Marshfield Police Department
- Mass. Old Colony Police Anti-Crime TF
- Massachusetts State Police
- Middleborough Police Department
- Norton Police Department
- Pembroke Police Department
- Randolph Police Department

Connecticut

- Connecticut State Police
- DEA Bridgeport Office
- DEA Hartford Office

Federal Law Enforcement Agencies

- Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms & Explosives
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Homeland Security Investigations
- U.S. Marshal Service
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service
- U.S. Secret Service

DEA Providence Resident Office

- Central Falls Police Department
- Cranston Police Department
- East Providence Police Department
- Pawtucket Police Department
- Providence Police Department
- Rhode Island State Police
- South Kingstown Police Department
- Newport Police Department
- Warwick Police Department
- West Warwick Police Department
- Woonsocket Police Department

DEA Cape Cod Office

DEA New Bedford Office

DEA Special Operations Division

Pennsylvania

- DEA Philadelphia Office

Vermont

- ATF Office in Burlington
- DEA Office Burlington

Virginia

- DEA Norfolk Office

Dominican Republic

- DEA Santo Domingo Office



OPERATION PANAMERA

OPERATION PANAMERA

NAME	AGE	CITY/TOWN	STATE	CHARGES	CHARGES DESCRIPTION	ARREST DATE	BAIL CONDITIONS	MJ #	YOB
Ramon Delossantos	25	Cumberland	RI	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(B) and 846; & 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A)	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute 500 grams or More of Cocaine; & Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Fentanyl	10/2/2017	Held	17-MJ-456-PAS	1992
Alejandro Felix Mendez, aka "FLEX"	33	Woonsocket	RI	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance	10/25/2017	Held	17-MJ-507-LDA	1984
Antonio Quinones Sr., aka Cruz Antonio Quinones	51	Providence	RI	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance	10/25/2017	Held	17-MJ-473-LDA	1966
Audi E. Diaz, aka "Boku"	27	Providence	RI	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance	10/27/2017	Held	17-MJ-514-PAS	1990
Brian Kinlin	33	Rockland	MA	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance	10/26/2017	Held	17-MJ-479-LDA	1984
Charlotte A. Nehme	30	North Providence	RI	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance	10/25/2017	Released	17-MJ-513-PAS	1987
Frankie Montesino, aka Frank Montesino, Frank Robles	40	Pawtucket	RI	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance	10/25/2017	Held	17-MJ-476-LDA	1977
Gabriel Concepcion	27	Woonsocket	RI	21 U.S.C. § 846; and 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance Conspiracy to Possess More than Five Kilograms of Cocaine; and Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime	8/28/2017	Held	CR17-079-M	1990
Gary Tavares	25	Lynn	MA	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Fentanyl	10/2/2017	Held	17-MJ-457-PAS	1992
Jamaal M. Dublin, aka Jamaal Dublin, Julio Johnathan Carlos Delacruz, aka John Carlos Delacruz, John Delacruz	34	West Warwick	RI	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance	10/25/2017	Held	17-MJ-478-LDA	1983
Jose Lopez	29	Providence	RI	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance	10/26/2017	Held	17-MJ-480-LDA	1988
Julio Cesar Santos Batista, aka "Santico"	32	Providence	RI	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance	10/26/2017	Held	17-MJ-509-PAS	1985
Luis Adames Torres, aka Luis Adames, Luis A. Torres	29	Norton	MA	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Fentanyl	10/2/2017	Held	17-MJ-455-PAS	1988
Luis Carela	22	Providence	RI	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance	10/26/2017	Held	17-MJ-474-LDA	1995
Luismar A. De La Rosa	25	Fall River	MA	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance	10/26/2017	Held	17-MJ-472-LDA	1992
Michael A. Albanese	41	Hyannis	MA	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Fentanyl	10/27/2017	Held	17-MJ-454-PAS	1976
Michael Walker	50	Teaticket	MA	21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 846	Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Fentanyl	10/2/2017	Held	17-MJ-453-PAS	1967
Rinaxo M. Rufino	33	Miramar	FL	21 U.S.C. § 846	Conspiracy to Possess More than Five Kilograms of Cocaine	8/28/2017	Held	CR17-079-M	1984
Saira Perez (charged in MA)	34	Bridgewater	MA	N/A	Possession with Intent to Distribute Fentanyl	2/14/2017	Held	N/A	1983
Steven Glover (charged in MA)	35	Randolph	MA	N/A	Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine/Fentanyl	9/25/2017	Held	N/A	1982
Arianna Spencer (charged in CT)	21	Cranston	RI	21a-278b	Possession & Sale of Illegal Drugs	9/30/2017	Released	N/A	1996
Isaiah Roman (charged in CT)	19	Providence	RI	21a-278b	Possession & Sale of Illegal Drugs	9/30/2017	Released	N/A	1998

OPERATION PANAMERA

PROPERTY ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	MJ NUMBER	RELATED TO
74 Yorkshire St	Providence	RI	17-MJ-520-PAS	Antonio Quinones
1560 Douglas Ave., Unit 82	North Providence	RI	17-MJ-522-PAS	Charlotte Nehme
10 Beechwood Ave	Pawtucket	RI	Consent Search	Frankie Montesino
39 Jenks Ave	Central Falls	RI	17-MJ-389-PAS	Gabriel Concepcion
291 Dudley St, 3rd Floor	Providence	RI	17-MJ-463-WES	Ian Alex Rodriguez
24 Harley St	West Warwick	RI	17-MJ-518-PAS	Jamaal Dublin
37 Gilmore St, 1st Floor	Providence	RI	17-MJ-519-PAS	Jamaal Dublin
75 Donald Street	Weymouth	MA	N/A	Jarrod Covell
274 East Main St, #6	Norton	MA	17-MJ-6337-MPK	Julio Ceasar Santos-Batista; Gary Tavares; Michael Albanese; Michael Walker
320 Valley St, 2nd Floor Apt.	Providence	RI	17-MJ-521-PAS	Luis Adames Torres
104 Sayles St, Apt. 117	Woonsocket	RI	17-MJ-388-PAS	Luis Luque Velasquez
214 Dora St, Basement	Providence	RI	17-MJ-367-PAS	Luis Luque Velasquez
Compass Storage Units 2256 711 Branch Ave	Providence	RI	17-MJ-464-WES	Ramon Delossantos
51 Front St, Apt. 115	Cumberland	RI	17-MJ-465-WES/17-MJ-466-PAS	Ramon Delossantos
499 Douglas Ave., #1	Providence	RI	17-MJ-523-PAS	Raul Ocasio & Luismar A. De La Rosa
200 Riverside Ave, Apt. 142	New Bedford	MA	N/A	Santos Batista
3 Whales Ave	Randolph	MA	N/A	Steven Glover; Kyle Foster