

# Chester County District Attorney's Office

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**August 19, 2020**

### **Coatesville Man Arrested for Illegal Guns and Drug Trafficking**

After receiving numerous tips from concerned citizens complaining about illicit drug crime and the threat of violence that accompanies it, Kenneth Jerome Cole was arrested for selling cocaine from his residence in Coatesville, PA. Thereafter, police seized three illegal firearms, over \$60,000 in cash, cocaine, methamphetamine, various prescription pills, as well as drug packaging and manufacturing paraphernalia.

As a result, the Chester County District Attorney's Office and the City of Coatesville Police Department charged Kenneth Jerome Cole, age 42, for multiple counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance with the Intent to Deliver, Dealing in Unlawful Activities, Persons Not to Possess Firearms, Receiving Stolen Property and related offenses.

District Attorney Deb Ryan stated, "We are all committed to safeguarding our community from the ravages of drugs and guns. We will not condone offenders who push this poison into our neighborhoods and we have zero tolerance for the possession of firearms to help facilitate the drug trade. Our office will continue to work vigilantly along with law enforcement throughout this county to keep our streets safe. We are grateful for the collective efforts of law enforcement, especially the City of Coatesville Police Department, in the swift apprehension of the defendant in this case."

The allegations from the criminal complaint<sup>1</sup> are as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

Between August 10, 2020-August 14, 2020, the defendant, along with another known co-conspirator, sold cocaine to a confidential informant on multiple occasions. On August 14, 2020, a search warrant was executed at 24 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Coatesville, Chester County, PA. Law enforcement seized large quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and various prescription pills. The estimated street value is over \$11,500.

In addition, police seized drug paraphernalia related to possessing controlled substances with the intent to manufacture and distribute including packaging materials, digital scales, and metal pots and pans with suspected cocaine residue on them. A Ruger 9mm firearm and \$5,346.00 in US currency were also recovered at the residence. In addition, police seized clothing and other paraphernalia indicating membership to the Thunderguard Motorcycle Club, an outlaw motorcycle gang based in Wilmington, DE.

A second search warrant was executed on August 14, 2020, at 214 Andrew Road in Coatesville, PA, after new information was obtained by police in connection to this case. Police seized additional quantities of cocaine and additional drug paraphernalia, a Cobra Shadow .38 special revolver, a Colt Challenger .22 caliber handgun and \$48,950.00 in US currency. An additional \$8,875.85 was recovered from his bank account.

On August 16, 2020, police confirmed that the Ruger 9mm firearm recovered from the defendant's residence had been reported stolen. The defendant is not legally permitted to possess any firearm.

The City of Coatesville Police Chief Jack Laufer stated, "We would like to thank the Chester County Detectives and the Chester County District Attorney's Office for their assistance with this investigation. Working jointly and leveraging investigative cooperation between our agencies ensures that the citizens of Coatesville and Chester County are receiving the best law enforcement services available. Our agency is proud to say that we do not 'police our community as much as we partner with it.'"

The defendant was arrested on August 14, 2020, and arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Marian Vito, who set bail at \$75,000 cash. He was arrested on August 16, 2020, for the charge of receiving stolen property for the Ruger 9mm. Magisterial District Judge Grover Koon set bail at \$250,000 unsecured bail.

The defendant was remanded to Chester County Prison. A preliminary hearing is scheduled on August 31, 2020 for both cases.

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Approved for release:

Deborah Ryan  
District Attorney

