



CHESTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

TELEPHONE: 610-344-6801
FAX: 610-344-5905

THOMAS P. HOGAN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

201 W. MARKET STREET, SUITE 4450
POST OFFICE BOX 2746
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380-0991

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PRESS RELEASE

**Chester County Picks Off Kilo of Crystal Meth,
Half Kilo of Fentanyl Laced Heroin**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrest of defendant Jose Uriel Arreola-Ortiz for drug trafficking. The defendant supplied a confidential informant with a kilogram of crystal methamphetamine and a half kilogram of fentanyl-laced heroin. The defendant ran a drug operation out of Mexico and California, supplying drugs in bulk to Southern Chester County for resale at street level. He was arrested last night in Chester County when he flew out to pick up a payment for the drugs.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "As a matter of self-defense, Chester County law enforcement has been forced to play on a larger stage to prevent drug dealers from injecting their poison into our county. There was a time when we were satisfied to pick off ounces of illegal drugs from local dealers. Now, we have the capacity and skill to interdict kilograms from international drug traffickers. We will never quit."

The defendant is a Mexican national residing illegally in the United States. His last known address in the United States was 1625 East 27th Street, Merced, California. The defendant is 27 years old.

The facts alleged in the criminal complaint are as follows:¹

The defendant is part of a drug-trafficking organization with ties to Mexico and California. In March of 2019, the defendant appeared in Chester County to collect on a drug debt for marijuana sales. The defendant was introduced to a confidential informant (“CI”) working with the Chester County Detectives.

The defendant set up a deal to send the CI a kilogram of crystal methamphetamine for re-sale. The defendant instructed the CI to deposit money into a bank account under a false name.

Once the money was deposited, the defendant mailed a kilogram of methamphetamine to the CI on March 28, 2019. The defendant later spoke to the CI to confirm the quality of the meth and arranged for another payment to the bank account.

The defendant and the CI then engaged in a series of communications. The defendant offered to sell the CI both meth and heroin. The defendant also had the CI deposit money into another bank account under a second fake name.

On August 29, 2019, the CI received a half-kilogram package from the defendant. The package was supposed to contain heroin. Instead, it contained mostly fentanyl, mixed with heroin. Such a shipment could have caused dozens of overdose deaths if sold to users in Chester County.

On September 11, 2019, the defendant travelled to Chester County to receive payment from the CI. Instead, the defendant was met by Chester County Detectives and arrested on drug trafficking charges.

The defendant’s bail was set at \$1 million cash. He was remanded to Chester County Prison. He will have a preliminary hearing scheduled shortly.

District Attorney Hogan added, “Crystal meth and fentanyl laced heroin are the evil twins of current street drugs. The world is a dark place where we can order up a kilo of meth and a half-kilo of heroin/fentanyl this easily. However, as local drug dealers and now international drug traffickers are learning, they better stay out of Chester County.”

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

This case was investigated by the Chester County Detectives, the investigative arm of the District Attorney's Office, with assistance from the Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA strike force. The assigned prosecutor is Michelle Barone, the head of the DA's Drug Unit.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan