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PRESS RELEASE

DEA and Chester County Police Bust Million Dollar Drug Operation

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrests of James Lippert and David Eisenstadt for possessing over \$2.5 million worth of marijuana. Federal and local law enforcement agencies raided homes in Philadelphia and Tredyffrin Township, Chester County. The arrests and raids were coordinated by the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), the Chester County DA's Office, the Tredyffrin Township Police Department, and the Philadelphia Police Department.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "When federal and local law enforcement work as a team, drug dealers do not stand a chance. These two drug dealers thought they were smart to be running drugs and money between Philadelphia and Chester County. Now we have their drugs and money, and they have been arrested and locked up."

Defendant James Lippert resided at 138 Colket Lane, Tredyffrin Township, Devon, PA. Lippert is 49 years old. Defendant David Eisenstadt lived at 4213 Chester Avenue, Philadelphia, PA. Eisenstadt is 50 years old. Both defendants are charged with possessing with intent to distribute marijuana and related drug charges.

A summary of the allegations from the criminal complaint are as follows:¹

In May of 2012, DEA began investigating Lippert. A citizen had reported an overwhelming smell of marijuana coming from a residence in Philadelphia associated with Lippert. DEA surveillance revealed that Lippert and Eisenstadt

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty at trial.

were working together on what appeared to be a marijuana grow operation that had links to both Philadelphia and Chester County. DEA and the Chester County DA's Office Drug Unit then used a combination of physical surveillance, electronic surveillance, information from cooperators, and other investigative techniques to develop the case against the defendants. The Tredyffrin Township Police Department and Philadelphia Police Department assisted.

On June 27, 2012, the investigation culminated with the simultaneous execution of search warrants at Lippert's Tredyffrin residence and Eisenstadt's Philadelphia residence. In Tredyffrin, police recovered over \$135,000 in cash and marijuana packaged for sale. In Philadelphia, police found a grow operation for high quality "hydro" marijuana, including 30 pounds of bulk marijuana and 530 live marijuana plants. The street value of the seized marijuana is over \$2.5 million.

Both defendants were arrested in Philadelphia County and remain incarcerated. Lippert's bail was set at \$1.5 million. Eisenstadt's bail was set at \$1 million.

District Attorney Hogan added, "We are always happy to assist our law enforcement colleagues from DEA. For us, this case started with a call from an outstanding DEA agent who is also a good friend from my days as a federal prosecutor. It is critically important for law enforcement to work together to take down significant drug dealers across Southeastern Pennsylvania. Personal trust and mutual respect between law enforcement agencies plays a major role."

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan