

Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor

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HUNTERDON COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OPERATION DOWNTOWN SHUTDOWN NABS 13 FOR DRUG DISTRIBUTION

Hunterdon County Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns, III, and Hunterdon County Chief of Detectives John J. Kuczynski have announced the culmination of an undercover operation by the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Task Force. In response to the ever increasing number of overdoses, including 15 deaths so far in 2017, the operation specifically targeted individuals distributing heroin and other illegal narcotics in Hunterdon County. The joint investigation included detectives from the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Narcotics Task Force, the New Jersey State Police, Clinton Township Police Department, Raritan Township Police Department, Readington Township Police Department and Flemington Borough Police Department to arrest eleven individuals for narcotic distribution charges.

Jordan Wideman, age 21, of Flemington, NJ, was arrested for Distribution of a Prescription Legend Drug.

Eric Cruse, age 53, of Flemington, NJ, was arrested for Conspiracy to Distribute a Prescription Legend Drug.

Jerry Mills, age 38, of Flemington, NJ, was arrested for Distribution of Heroin and Distribution of a Prescription Legend Drug.

Michael Pillar, age 48, of Whiting, NJ, was arrested for Distribution of a Methamphetamine.

Ernest Mittasch, age 47, of Frenchtown, NJ, was arrested for Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine.

Samantha Miles, age 35, of Bloomsbury, NJ, was arrested for Distribution of Cocaine.

Melissa Kostka, age 37, of Bloomsbury, NJ, was arrested for Distribution of Oxycodone, Distribution of Cocaine within a Public Park and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

Kenyatta Rodgers, age 31, of Bloomsbury, NJ, Distribution of Cocaine.

Cherelle Cooper, age 26, of Flemington, NJ, Distribution of MDMA.

Lisa Vargas, age 34, of Flemington, NJ, was arrested for Distribution of Marijuana.

Rashawn Gaines, age 26, of Flemington, NJ, was arrested on three counts of Distribution of Heroin.

Two additional individuals have been charged and are still being sought:

Kenneth Wideman, age 27, of Flemington, NJ, was charged with Distribution of Imitation Crack Cocaine.

Donte Spence, age 20, of Allentown, PA, was charged with two counts of Distribution of Heroin.

Prosecutor Kearns stated, "Overdose deaths are rising at alarming rate in Hunterdon County and across our nation. The heroin epidemic continues to take lives, destroy families and impact government and healthcare services. While we have learned that this isn't a problem that can be fought on the law enforcement front alone, we will continue to work with our local and state law enforcement partners to track down and arrest those that sell illegal narcotics."

The filing of a criminal complaint is merely a step in the criminal justice process. The defendant is presumed innocent until the matter is resolved in a court of law.

Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-321-0010 or by going to www.crimestoppershunterdon.com, or text messaging "HCTIPS" plus your tip message to 274637 (CRIMES). Tipsters can also download the free mobile app "Tipsubmit" and select Hunterdon County to submit anonymous tips via text messaging. All tips are anonymous and kept confidential.

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OPERATION DOWNTOWN SHUTDOWN



COOPER



KOSTKA



MILLS



MITTASCH



RODGERS



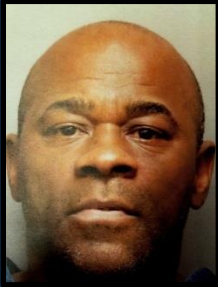
J. WIDEMAN



VARGAS



PILLAR



CRUSE

**HUNTERDON COUNTY PROSECUTOR
ANTHONY P. KEARNS III**



GAINES



MILES



**K. WIDEMAN
(WANTED)**



**SPENCE
(WANTED)**