

NEWS

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NEWS RELEASE --- IMMEDIATE

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LARGE HEROIN DISTRIBUTION RING BROKEN IN LEE

Lee, MA: A three month investigation by the Berkshire County Drug Task Force into a heroin distribution ring in the Town of Lee came to a close on Wednesday with three arrests. The arrests included 26 year old Justin MacFarlane and 26 year old Robin Connors both of East Street in Lee, and 34 year old Jorge Comez of Second Street in Pittsfield. According to Chief Ronald Glidden of the Lee Police Department, the investigation was conducted by Officer William J. Bartini of the Lee Police Department along with members of the Berkshire County Drug Task Force.

MacFarlane was stopped in Lee on Wednesday for operating a motor vehicle after suspension. In addition to the operating after suspension charge, he was also arrested for three counts of distribution of a class A substance, heroin; and two counts of conspiracy to violate the controlled substances act. Gomez, who was a passenger in the vehicle, was arrested on one count of distribution of a class A substance; and one count of conspiracy to violate the controlled substances act.

As part of the investigation, MacFarlane's home at 315 East Street was searched. As a result of that search, MacFarlane was also charged with trafficking in heroin (over 14 grams); and possession of a class B substance, Suboxone. A second search was conducted at Connors' home at 685 East Street. Connors was subsequently charged with one count each of distribution of a class A substance, heroin; conspiracy to violate the controlled substances act; possession of a class B substance, Suboxone; and possession of a class D substance, marijuana. As a result of the two searches in MacFarlane's and Connors' homes, approximately 20 grams of heroin with a street value of \$20,000 was recovered. Also recovered was a scale, packaging materials, prescription medication Soboxone used for detoxing a heroin addict, and a marijuana smoking pipe.

According to Bartini, "this distribution ring was servicing approximately 30-50 people between 17 to 45 years of age from all over Berkshire County. Chief Ronald Glidden of the Lee Police Department commended Bartini's role in the investigation and the hard work of all the members of the Berkshire County Drug Task Force.

Assisting agencies included the Lenox Police Department, Pittsfield Police Department, Williamstown and North Adams Police Departments as well as Massachusetts State Police assigned to the District Attorney's Office.

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