

Suspected Drug Dealers & Buyers Arrested

Newark ‐ Two suspected drug dealers were arraigned this morning following their arrests yesterday during separate investigations by Essex County sheriff's detectives.

Sheriff Armando Fontoura stated that officers from his department's Bureau of Narcotics conducted a quality of life surveillance operation in the area of Central Avenue and 9th Street on 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday.

At that time, the BON detectives observed a male loitering in front of 522 Central Avenue, a known high volume drug trafficking area.

After a short period of time, the suspect, later identified as Kadeem Reddick, age 24 of Newark, engaged in brief conversations with a male and a female who were passing by.

In each instance, Reddick walked to a nearby 1997 Chevrolet Cavalier and removed a black plastic bag that was secreted in the vehicle's left front wheel well. On both occasions, Reddick removed items from the plastic bag and exchanged them for cash with the passersby.

The sheriff's BON officers moved in to investigate further and detained Reddick. The black plastic bag was recovered from the wheel well and was found to contain 33 vials of 'crack' cocaine, 54 envelopes of heroin, stamped 'PRESIDENT' in red ink, 38 oxycodone pills and 90 Xanax tablets.

'The suspect was apparently operating a mobile drug store,' Sheriff Fontoura observed.

A canvass of the neighborhood for the suspected buyers was unsuccessful.

Reddick was charged with the multiple counts of the sale and possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of CDS with intent to distribute and possession of CDS with intent to distribute within 1000 feet of Martin Luther King School.

At today's arraignment, Judge Marilyn Williams ordered Reddick held at the county jail in lieu of \$75,000 bail.

Later on Tuesday, Sheriff Fontoura said that his BON detectives conducted a second surveillance operation in the area of 154 Parker Street, a location where sheriff's officers have made previous drug arrests.

At 4:45 p.m., Alexander Gallego, age 21 and a known Latin Kings gang member, was observed standing in front of the residence where he engaged in conversation with a male and female passerby.

In each instance, Gallego walked to the building's basement ledge and removed items from a clear plastic bag which he exchanged for cash.

Believing they had witnessed drug transactions, the BON officers moved in and detained Gallego. The plastic bag was recovered and found to contain 21 vials of 'crack' cocaine and the suspect was placed under arrest.

The suspected buyers were detained a few blocks away and searched. Caroline Braxton, age 47, and Angel Garcia, age 44, both of Newark, were found to be in possession of 'crack' cocaine and were arrested, processed and issued a summons for a future court date.

Gallego was also charged with multiple drug sale, possession and distribution charges.

Judge Williams set bail at \$85,000 on Gallego and he was lodged at the county jail.