

## Florida Fugitive & 2 Gang Members Arrested on Drug Charges

Newark — A Florida fugitive and two other suspects, all Latin King gang members, were arrested this afternoon by Essex County sheriff's detectives and drug charges were filed against them.

Sheriff Armando Fontoura stated that detectives from his department, working in conjunction with the Orange County Sheriff's Office in Florida, today executed a search warrant for the second floor apartment at 502 North 4th Street in Newark.

At that location, Jennifer Pisciotta, age 27, wanted for violation of probation on an earlier theft charge was taken into custody along with her boyfriend, Victor Lopez, age 32, and, Jose Colon, age 21.

A search of the apartment yielded more than a third of a kilo of cocaine and 167 grams of marijuana which were discovered lying on a bed and secreted in kitchen drawers. The combined street value of the narcotics is \$20,000. In addition, \$3,955 in small bills was seized from the apartment.

Also found in the apartment were Pisciotta's and Lopez's two daughters, an 8-year-old and 1-year-old. The children were turned over to other family members.

"The fugitive had managed to elude Florida authorities for more than two years," Sheriff Fontoura noted. "Today's arrests underscore the very best of cooperation between law enforcement agencies."

The three suspects were charged with two counts each of possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of CDS with intent to distribute, possession of CDS with intent to distribute within 500 feet of St. Benedict Park and conspiracy to violate New Jersey's narcotics laws.

Pisciotta and Lopez were additionally charged with two counts of endangering the welfare of a child.

Following questioning, the suspects will be lodged at the Essex County jail where they will wait arraignment on today's charges.