

Suspect Had Gun & Heroin

Newark — A suspect was arraigned today on narcotics and weapons charges following his arrest last night by Essex County Sheriff's detectives.

Sheriff Armando Fontoura stated that as part of an ongoing investigation into narcotics trafficking in the city's North Ward, officers from his department's Bureau of Narcotics conducted a surveillance operation in the area of Broadway and Sylvan Avenue last night.

The sheriff said the BON detectives observed what they believed to be a narcotics transaction between two males in front of 891 Broadway at 8:00 p.m.

Following the alleged transaction one of the suspects, later identified as Raul Lopez, age 53 of Newark, walked across the street and removed a handgun from his waistband and placed it in his sweater pocket.

At this point, the sheriff's detectives announced their presence, ordered Lopez to the ground and handcuffed him. When the suspect was rolled over a fully loaded, semi-automatic, .25 caliber AG Galesi handgun spilled out of the suspect's pocket.

86 decks of heroin, stamped "OLYMPUS" in blue ink, were found to be in the possession of the suspect during a subsequent search.

Lopez was charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of CDS with intent to distribute, the unlawful possession of a weapon, and possession of a weapon while committing a CDS crime.

At today's arraignment, Judge Marilyn E. Williams ordered Lopez to be held at the county jail in lieu of \$100,000 cash bond only.