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County of Warren

PRESS RELEASE

ARRESTED:

Charles Best

19 Jackson Avenue
Washington, New Jersey 07882
Date of Birth: December 2, 1982
Unemployed

Brian K. Crawford

Washington Heights Apts.
PO Box 456
Washington, New Jersey 07882
Date of Birth: May 23, 1983
Unemployed

Brian W. Kraser

5 Thatcher Avenue
Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865
Date of Birth: December 16, 1978
Unemployed

Justin W. Sherwood

217 Musconetcong River Road
Washington, New Jersey 07882
Date of Birth: May 18, 1983
Unemployed

The above named individuals were arrested Monday, June 23, 2008 in Washington, New Jersey, as the result of an undercover operation by the Warren County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Task Force (WCPO/NTF). The WCPO/NTF had obtained arrest warrants for Charles Best resulting from an unrelated investigation into the distribution of heroin on two prior occasions during the week of May 19, 2008. Prior to making the arrest of Mr. Best on those charges, undercover officers with the WCPO/NTF were conducting surveillance in the area of Mr. Best's home when they observed a

suspected hand to hand narcotics transaction between two individuals later identified as Brian W. Kraser and Justin W. Sherwood.

Mr. Kraser and Mr. Sherwood were immediately arrested as a result of the suspected hand to hand narcotics transaction and found to be in possession of suspected heroin. During the investigation of that transaction, it was learned that Mr. Kraser had purchased the heroin from Brian Crawford at a home on Jackson Avenue. Further investigation revealed that Mr. Crawford had obtained the heroin from Mr. Best.

As a result of the prior investigation, Mr. Best was charged with two (2) counts of Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, heroin, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(3), crimes of the Third Degree; two (2) counts of Possession With Intent to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance, heroin, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(3), crimes of the Third Degree; two (2) counts of Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, heroin, within 1000 feet of a School, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7, crimes of the Third Degree; and two (2) counts of Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, heroin, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1), crimes of the Third Degree.

As a result of the June 23, 2008 investigation and arrest, Mr. Best was charged with one (1) count of Conspiracy to Distribute Heroin, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(3), a third degree offense, and possession of hypodermic syringes, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:36-6, a disorderly persons offense.

Mr. Crawford was charged with one (1) count of Conspiracy to Distribute Heroin, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(3), a third degree offense; one (1) count of Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, heroin, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1), a crime of the Third Degree; one (1) count of Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, heroin, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(3), a crime of the Third Degree; one (1) count of Possession With Intent to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance, heroin, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(3), a crime of the Third Degree; and one (1) count of Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, heroin, within 1000 feet of a School, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7, a crime of the Third Degree.

Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Kraser were each charged with one (1) count of Conspiracy to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance, to wit heroin, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1), a third degree crime and one (1) count of Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, heroin, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1), a third degree crime.

The maximum sentence for a crime of the third degree is five (5) years New Jersey State Prison on each count and a fine ranging between \$35,000 and \$150,000. The maximum sentence for a disorderly persons offense is six (6) months of incarceration and a fine of \$1,000.

Mr. Best's bail has been set by the Honorable J. Edward Palmer, Judge of the Municipal Court, at \$20,000.00 with a ten (10%) percent option. Mr. Best is presently incarcerated at the Warren County Correctional Facility in lieu of bail and made his first appearance before the Honorable John H. Pursel, Judge of the Superior Court on Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Warren County Superior Court, Belvidere, New Jersey

Mr. Crawford's bail has been set by the Honorable J. Edward Palmer, Judge of the Municipal Court, at \$20,000.00 with a ten (10%) percent option. Mr. Crawford is presently incarcerated at the Warren County Correctional Facility in lieu of bail and made his first appearance before the Honorable John H. Pursel, Judge of the Superior Court on Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Warren County Superior Court, Belvidere, New Jersey.

Mr. Kraser and Mr. Sherwood were each released without bail. Each made their first appearance before the Honorable John H. Pursel, Judge of the Superior Court on Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Warren County Superior Court, Belvidere, New Jersey.

Please be advised that the defendants are presumed innocent of all charges unless and until proven guilty.


THOMAS SCOTT FERGUSON
Prosecutor of Warren County

Dated: June 25, 2008