OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

RISA VETRI FERMAN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KEVIN R. STEELE
FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY
COURTHOUSE
P.O. BOX 311
NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
19404-0311

EDMUND H. JUSTICE
CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

STEVEN J. LATZER
CHIEF OF STAFF

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ***(610) 278-3090***
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FAX ***(610) 278-3095***
COUNTY DETECTIVE BUREAU ***(610) 278-3368***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 23, 2013

Operation Weed Whacker

Dennis Frederick

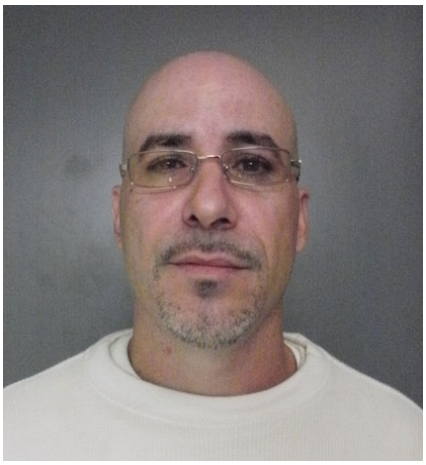
Charles Sadrin

Ernest Peterkin

Jeffery Frederick

Stanislav Dubovsky

Martin Williams



Earl DeSantis

John Walker

Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman, along with Pennsylvania State Police Major Andrew Ashmar, Whitpain Police Chief Mark Smith, Upper Merion Police Chief Tom Nolan, Bucks County District Attorney David Heckler, Delaware County District Attorney Jack Whelan, and Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams announce charges against the following individuals in "Operation: Weed Whacker."

- Dennis Frederick, age 40, 759 Burmont Road, Apartment A, Drexel Hill, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.
- Charles Sadrin, age 57, 1223 Tavistock Lane, Lincoln, California.
- Ernest Peterkin, age 24, 1917 Montrose Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Jeffery Frederick, age 32, 1714 Memphis Street, Apartment 305, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Stanislav Dubovsky, age 26, 1109 Hewson Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Martin Williams, age 31, 700 Christian Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Earl DeSantis, age 45, 820 South Avenue, Apartment 8, Secane, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.
- John Walker, age 29, 242 Seneca Street, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

In September, 2012, Montgomery County District Attorney's – Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) began an investigation targeting the trafficking of high-grade marijuana in Whitpain Township, Montgomery County.

In November, 2012, detectives learned the source of supply for the marijuana sold in Montgomery County was Dennis Frederick of Delaware County and his brother Jeffrey Frederick of Philadelphia. When detectives learned that hundreds of pounds of the marijuana were distributed by the Frederick brothers in Southeastern Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania State Police joined the investigation.

On April 19, 2013, detectives applied to the Pennsylvania Superior Court for authorization to wiretap the cellular telephones of the Frederick brothers. On April 22, 2013, wiretaps began.

During the course of the wiretap portion of the case, detectives identified Charles Sadrin as the California source of marijuana supply to the Frederick brothers. Detectives learned Sadrin routinely shipped large orange tool boxes from Sacramento, California to Delaware County via a freight service. The investigation revealed Sadrin himself picked up the containers using a rented pickup truck, delivered them to Dennis Frederick at a garage on the 1100 block of Sigel Street, Philadelphia, and then returned the empty containers to Sacramento via the freight service.

Freight records revealed Sadrin shipped more than 3,673 pounds of marijuana from January, 2012 to April 22, 2013 on twenty-eight (28) occasions. The high-grade (potent) marijuana was sold in Pennsylvania for $4,000 per pound. Therefore, the gross income for Dennis Frederick for his marijuana business from January, 2012 through April, 2012 is estimated at $14,692,000.

During the course of the wiretap portion of the investigation, some individuals who conducted transactions with Dennis and Jeffrey Frederick were identified as mid-level traffickers of pounds of marijuana.

On May 6, 2013, detectives learned Sadrin shipped three (3) containers from California to Pennsylvania and intended to deliver the marijuana to Dennis Frederick. Plans were made by law enforcement to take action during this delivery anticipated to occur the following day.

On May 7, 2013, Sadrin picked up the three (3) containers at the freight company in Delaware County and drove to the 1100 block of Sigel Street, Philadelphia where he met with Dennis Frederick and Ernest Peterkin. As they were inside the garage in mid-transaction, detectives served a search warrant. Discovered inside the garage, along with Sadrin, Dennis Frederick and Peterkin, was approximately 271 pounds of marijuana and $450,000 in cash.

Subsequent to their arrests, eighteen search warrants were served in Philadelphia and Delaware Counties on the residences and vehicles of the suspects. In total, approximately 400 pounds of high-grade marijuana was seized on May 7, 2013 with a street value of $1,600,000 ($4,000 per pound x 400 pounds). Approximately $689,000 in cash was seized, along with four (4) firearms, seven (7) vehicles, and more than thirty (30) cell phones.

Dennis Frederick, Jeffrey Frederick, and Charles Sadrin were arraigned on May 7, 2013 before Montgomery County Magisterial District Judge Francis Lawrence. Bail was set at $4,000,000 each when they were determined to be a flight risk.

Detectives traveled to California to assist Sacramento Police in their investigation of Charles Sadrin. Search warrants were served in the Sacramento area including bank accounts, safe deposit boxes and a storage facility. Among the items seized was $20,000 cash from a safe deposit box. This facet of the investigation is continuing.

The investigation included wiretapped conversations and physical surveillance. Those facts shed light on the drug organization run by the Frederick brothers. Those details served as the basis for the following criminal charges: Corrupt Organization (18 Pa. C.S.A. Section 911); the Manufacture, Delivery, and/or Possession With the Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance (35 Pa. P.S., Section 780-113); Criminal Conspiracy (18 Pa. C.S.A., Section 903); Dealing in Proceeds of Unlawful Activities (18 Pa. C.S.A., Section 5111); and the Criminal Use of Communication Facility (18 Pa. C.S.A., Section 7512).

The defendants that are in custody will have their preliminary arraignments today at 12:00 PM at Montgomery County Magisterial District Judge Sobeck's Office, 653 Blue Bell West, Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.

This case will be prosecuted by Montgomery County Assistant District Attorneys Jason Whalley and Colleen McIntyre.

Approved for release,

Risa Vetri Ferman

CRIMINAL CHARGES AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY