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FENTANYL FROM CHINA SEIZED IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY DRUG INVESTIGATION; TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED FOR SELLING FENTANYL AND CARFENTANIL



Jamil I. Chapman



Nasai J. Chapman

Lethal doses of Fentanyl and Carfentanil relative to a lethal dose of Heroin



Heroin



Carfentanil



Fentanyl

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (March 28, 2018) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and other law enforcement officials announced today the arrest of Jamil I. Chapman, 26, and Nasai J. Chapman, 23, both of Collingdale, for trafficking fentanyl and the deadlier carfentanil, which they ordered, purchased and had shipped from China to residences in Lower Merion and Upper Merion townships in Montgomery County. Approximately 300 grams of fentanyl was physically seized. An additional 400 to 500 grams of the much deadlier carfentanil was documented as having been ordered and shipped from China to Montgomery County.

The arrests come following a nine-month investigation that involved a number of law enforcement entities including:

- Montgomery County Detective Bureau Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET)
- Lower Merion Township Police Department
- Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General
- Office of Homeland Security Investigations
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Upper Merion Township Police Department.

“Fentanyl is cheap and deadly, since it’s 50 times stronger than heroin. But as dangerous as fentanyl is, carfentanil is substantially more dangerous since it’s a drug developed to tranquilize a three-ton elephant. It’s 100 times more potent than fentanyl and 10,000 times more potent than morphine,” said Steele. “While the packages we seized were fentanyl and its variant acetylfentanyl, evidence was found of carfentanil having been weighed and packaged in the defendant’s apartment and ultimately sold. This is the first time we have seen evidence of carfentanil trafficking in Montgomery County.”

The investigation of the Chapmans began with an overdose investigation in June 2017 at an apartment complex in Lower Merion Township. Further investigation by Lower Merion Police brought them back to the same apartment in September 2017, when detectives found 75 bags of suspected fentanyl and acetylfentanyl, stamped with the name “PLUTO,” as well as other evidence of drug trafficking activity. The other evidence from the apartment was tested and determined to be carfentanil.

From there, detectives learned that the Chapmans were expecting an incoming shipment from China. Homeland Security Investigators intercepted a package at JFK International Airport on Oct. 25, 2017, that was destined for an apartment in Upper Merion Township that detectives linked to the Chapmans. Testing by National Medical Services labs showed the package contained 99 grams of fentanyl. A second package was intercepted on Nov. 14, 2017, also at JFK International Airport. It was found to contain 200 grams of fentanyl.

The investigation also revealed previous purchases from China made by the Chapmans. An additional seven purchases were ordered and delivered from May through September 2017, totaling 400 to 500 grams of carfentanil. The majority of the packages were delivered to addresses in Montgomery County; two were delivered to Philadelphia addresses.

“Thanks to strong law enforcement collaboration led by District Attorney Kevin Steele, two drug dealers selling fentanyl and carfentanil—fatal poison—that was purchased on the Dark Web and shipped from China are behind bars,” said Attorney General Josh Shapiro. “We’ll continue to be relentless in taking these criminals off our streets and battling the heroin and opioid epidemic across Pennsylvania.”

The defendants were charged with multiple felony counts of including Operating a Corrupt Organization, Possession with Intent to Deliver, Criminal Attempt at Possession with Intent to Deliver, Dealing in the Proceeds of Unlawful Activities, Criminal Use of a Communications Facility and related charges. They were arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Karen Eisner Zucker, who set bail at \$250,000 cash each. Both defendants were unable to post bail and were remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing for Jamil Chapman was set for 10 a.m., April 10, 2018, to be followed by the preliminary hearing for Nasai Chapman at 10:15 a.m., both before Judge Zucker.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Samantha Thompson.

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