



Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Neil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE



MAJOR ARREST BY REGIONAL NARCOTICS UNIT

Hamilton County, Ohio, July 31, 2015 – Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil reports the indictment of Marcus Bankston, age 35, of Sycamore Township after a 5 month investigation by Agents of the Regional Enforcement Narcotics Unit (RENU). The Hamilton County Grand Jury has indicted Mr. Bankston on Trafficking in Heroin, Conspiracy to Traffic in Drugs, Weapons under Disability, Receiving Stolen Property and 3 counts of Possession of a Hidden Compartment in a Motor Vehicle.

RENU Agents initiated their investigation after the arrest of Jerome Sweeten on February 4, 2015. RENU Highway Interdiction Officers arrested Mr. Sweeten in possession of 3 pounds of heroin and a 9mm handgun after a vehicle pursuit ended in an auto accident and foot pursuit in Elmwood.

As a result of this 5 month investigation, Agents with the Regional Narcotics Unit executed 12 search warrants in the last 10 days at locations in Sycamore Township, Elmwood, Cincinnati and St. Bernard.

During those search warrants Agents recovered 7.4 pounds of heroin, drug trafficking and packaging materials, including a heroin press, 2 stolen handguns along with U.S. Currency, Jewelry and numerous vehicles.

Mr. Bankston is currently housed in the Hamilton County Justice Center and was indicted on these charges today, July 31, 2015.

MEDIA CONTACT: MIKE ROBISON

Regular Business Hours: M - F 8 am - 4 pm, mrobison@sheriff.hamilton-co.org Office (513) 946-6428

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Sheriff Jim Neil stated, "This is another major arrest by our RENU Agents who continue to aggressively track down those trafficking heroin throughout our county. We're going after the dealers and we're not letting up until we get them."

RENU Agents have also issued felony warrants for two additional individuals connected to this investigation and are asking the public for assistance in locating these subjects.

Derrick Wayne Ferris, age 39, of Elmwood is charged with Possession of Heroin and Trafficking in Drugs.

Damon J. Jenkins, age 36, also of Elmwood, is charged with Receiving Stolen Property.

Anyone with information about these two subjects is asked to call Crime Stoppers or RENU at 513-352-3673, text a tip to 513-808-4500 or Email: RENU@sheriff.hamilton-co.org