

Atlantic City Police Department
Special Investigation Section

Media Release

For Immediate Release: January 31, 2013

The Atlantic City Police Department Special Investigations Section, along with the New Jersey Treasury Department Office of Criminal Investigation SIU and the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs Enforcement Bureau recently completed an investigation into several local convenience stores for various criminal offenses including the sale of prescription legend drugs and untaxed cigarettes. The US immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency also assisted in this investigation.

Several of these stores were found to be selling male enhancement products marketed as dietary supplements that contained prescription legend drugs Sildenafil (the prescription legend drug in Viagra) and Tadalafil (The prescription legend drug in Cialis). These products were packaged under the name brands Black Ant, Stree Overlord, Power-X and Nite Rider.

Attorney General Jeffrey S. Chiesa said, "These arrests are the direct result of our Safe Summer initiative, in which the Attorney General's Office and Division of Consumer Affairs worked with the Atlantic City Police to remove illegal, dangerous products from retail establishments. These medications can pose serious, permanent health damage when taken incorrectly, or by patients who are taking certain other medications. Their sale without a doctor's prescription, and by any entity other than a licensed pharmacy, is illegal and dangerous to anyone foolish enough to ingest them. I commend the Atlantic City Police and the Division of Consumer Affairs' Enforcement Bureau for their commitment to public safety."

Eric T. Kanefsky, Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, said, "The sale and distribution of prescription legend drugs is controlled under state and federal law for a very important reason. Any prescription medication can be dangerous when taken without the oversight of a doctor who knows your overall health and knows the other medications you may be taking; and without the quality control of a licensed pharmacy. The FDA has found that 'Black Ant' contains as much as three times the recommended dose of Viagra's active ingredient, thereby compounding those risks. These drugs are only to be prescribed by a doctor, and dispensed by a pharmacist – healthcare professionals who are trained to care for your health and understand the risks of prescription drug use."

Director Michael Bryan of the NJ Division of Taxation echoed the ongoing cooperative efforts of the Special Agents of O.C.I. with the Atlantic City Police and the NJ Attorney General's Office. "We will continue joint initiatives such as this in our efforts to protect the revenue of the State of New Jersey."

The following individuals were arrested and charged with the below listed offenses:

Tariq M. Mehmood, 46 of Egg Harbor Twp.

Tariq Mehmood is the registered owner of **24 Seven Food Mart** located at 1406 Atlantic Ave.

Possession of prescription legend drugs

Possession with the intent to distribute prescription legend drugs

Possession of counterfeit stamped cigarettes

Failure to maintain records

Dealing with unlicensed persons

Criminal attempt uttering of forged documents (counterfeit US currency)

Naeem Tariq, 25 of Egg Harbor Twp.

Possession of counterfeit stamped cigarettes

Failure to maintain records

Dealing with unlicensed persons

Muhammad Zia, 39 of Atlantic City

Muhammad Zia is the registered owner of **Food 4 Less** LLC located at 1738 Atlantic Ave.

Possession of prescription legend drugs

Possession with the intent to distribute prescription legend drugs

Possession of counterfeit stamped cigarettes

Failure to maintain records

Dealing with unlicensed persons

Ahmed A. Ahmed, 48 of Atlantic City

Ahmed Ahmed is the registered owner of **Midtown Grocery** located at 1638 Atlantic Ave.

Possession of prescription legend drugs

Possession with the intent to distribute prescription legend drugs

Chaudhry Iqbal, 47 of Atlantic City

Chaudhry Iqbal is the registered owner of **JFK Convenience** located at 3814 Ventnor Ave.

Possession of prescription legend drugs

Possession with the intent to distribute prescription legend drugs

Sale of cigarettes without required revenue stamp
Sale of pirated movies
Dealing with unlicensed persons

Wanted warrants were issued for the following individuals:

Faheem Tariq, 46 of Egg harbor Twp

Faheem Tariq is the registered owner of **New Asia Bazaar** located at 23 South Kentucky Avenue.

Possession of prescription legend drugs

Possession with the intent to distribute prescription legend drugs

Possession of counterfeit stamped cigarettes

Failure to maintain records

Dealing with unlicensed persons

Aliza Akter, 21 of Atlantic City

Aliza Akter is the registered owner of 24/7 Pacific located at 1326 Pacific Avenue

Possession of counterfeit stamped cigarettes

Failure to maintain records

Dealing with unlicensed persons

Sale of untaxed cigarettes to a police officer

As a result of this investigation approximately 200 cartons of counterfeit stamped, untaxed or out of state stamped cigarettes were seized as well as numerous untaxed tobacco products. New Jersey Treasury Agents seized over \$10,000.00 in US Currency that will be shared amongst the participating Law Enforcement Agencies after the adjudication of the cases.

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