



ERIC R. LINHARDT  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KENNETH A. OSOKOW  
FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

LYCOMING COUNTY  
OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
LYCOMING COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
48 WEST THIRD STREET • WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701  
TELEPHONE: (570) 327-2456 • FAX: (570) 327-2324

TROY D. SELLERS  
ADULT VICTIM WITNESS COORDINATOR

LAURA L. BOWER  
JUVENILE VICTIM WITNESS COORDINATOR

May 13, 2015

DISTRICT ATTORNEY ERIC R. LINHARDT  
PREPARED REMARKS  
MAY 13, 2015 PRESS CONFERENCE

Thank you all for coming. With me today are County Commissioners Tony Mussare, Jeff Rauff, and Ernie Larson; Williamsport Mayor Gabe Campana; Captain Mike Orwig of Williamsport Bureau of Police; Chief County Detective William Weber; Captain Young and Lieutenant Weltmer of the Pennsylvania State Police; Chief Chris Miller of the Penn College Police Department, Chief Bob Hetner, South Williamsport Police Department, Chief Bill Solomon, Old Lycoming Township Police Department; Chief Rod Smith, Hughesville Borough Police Department; Sergeant Larry Wilcox, Montgomery Police Department; Lycoming County Sheriff Mark Lusk, Chief Chris McKibben, Muncy Township Police Department, Chief Jeff Gyurina, Montoursville Police Department, Chief Norm Hager Duboistown Police Department; Dean Heinbach, Williamsport Fire Chief, and Chief Ed McCoy, Lycoming County Adult Probation Office.

I am proud to announce a significant arrest last night by our Narcotics Enforcement Unit. As a result of a month long investigation Braheem Johnson, 27, of 416 Berger Street, was taken into custody on 22 drug and firearms charges.

Mr. Johnson's arrest comes as a result of 3 successful controlled purchases of Heroin on April 10, 2015, May 4, 2015 and May 12, 2015. On Friday April 10, 2015, in the area of Scott Street and Stevens Street in the City of Williamsport, Mr. Johnson and a confidential informant exchanged \$60 for 6 bags of heroin. On Monday May 4, 2015, in the area of Stevens Street, Mr. Johnson and a confidential informant exchanged \$300 for 40 bags of heroin. On Tuesday May 12, 2015, in the area of Isabella Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Mr. Johnson and a confidential informant exchanged \$200 for 24 bags of heroin.

Mr. Johnson was taken into custody by uniformed officers and plain clothed officers. Found in his possession was \$296 of which \$200 was pre-recorded money. Members of the narcotics enforcement unit set up surveillance on Mr. Johnson's residence at 416 Berger Street pending a search warrant.

The execution of that warrant resulted in the seizure of a .22 Smith & Wesson revolver loaded with 5 rounds, approximately 1007 glassine bags of heroin, 1 gram of loose heroin, 10 grams of powdered cocaine, several packaging materials and drug paraphernalia, a coffee grinder with powder residue consistent with heroin, scales, ink pads, and multiple cell phones.

Mr. Johnson is a felon not to possess firearms as a result of guilty plea on March 3, 2008 for possession with intent to deliver controlled substances and a guilty plea on May 22, 2009 also for possession with intent to deliver.

Mr. Johnson was arraigned last night and incarcerated in lieu of \$350,000 bail.

In the Narcotic Unit's first year, we have:

- Served 46 search warrants
- Arrested 84 individuals
- Assisted outside State and Federal Agencies w/ the arrest of 36 more
- Took more than 4 dozen illegal firearms off the street
- Seized over \$80,000 in illegal drug proceeds

In response to the spate of recent shootings, our office for the 8<sup>th</sup> year has brought together our County's police agencies in a determined effort to bring to bear our collective resources. For the last three weeks, local law enforcement has joined forces in conducting city wide police crackdowns.

Police have been directed by my office to operate highly visible pro-active units to take a zero tolerance approach to street crimes, drug trafficking and quality of life issues. Joint operations of the Pennsylvania State Police, Williamsport City Police, Montgomery, Old Lycoming, South Williamsport, Hughesville, Muncy, Muncy Borough, Penn College, Montoursville, Tiadaghton and Duboistown will persist in saturating city neighborhoods in a show of force designed to apprehend offenders and bring safety to the city's most troubled neighborhoods.

Just this past weekend, these well-coordinated and targeted enforcement efforts netted the arrest of 10 individuals, including 8 for drug violations, 1 DUI, and another person found in possession of marijuana and cocaine was taken into custody on a probation violation.

It is anticipated that these sudden and dramatic increases in police officer presence, sanctions, and threats of apprehension will bring with them a reduction of crime, and an increase in public safety, as we take greater numbers of offenders out of circulation.

Residents of Lycoming County can expect these joint operations to continue with regular frequency over the coming months. They will continue as long as they prove to be an effective tool against crime.

Additionally, through the use of drug forfeiture money, my office will again be paying the costs for Williamsport Police Officers to work community policing efforts across all of our City's parks. This effort began 3 weeks ago and will continue through the spring and summer months. As you may recall, this community policing project began 5 years ago in Flannigan Park, but last year was expanded to include *all* city parks including Flannigan, Memorial, Newberry, Brandon, Young Woods, Lose, and Shaw Place.

Lastly, I am happy to announce the *expansion* of this successful community policing effort to now include Williamsport's downtown. Thanks to the cooperation of Sheriff Lusk and Chief Deputy Ulmer of the Lycoming County Sheriff's Office, and the city's downtown business owners, Deputy Sheriffs have for the last 2 weeks been assigned to walk foot patrols in the evening and late night hours in our City's downtown, providing a welcomed, needed and reassuring law enforcement presence.

As with the park details, these community policing efforts can be expected to continue throughout the spring and summer months.

I want to personally thank the many law enforcement agencies responsible for making these joint operations a reality, and for ensuring that their officers and resources continue to be available in this important cooperative effort.

I would like to also publically thank County Detective Al Diaz for his outstanding job in coordinating our Narcotic Enforcement Unit; County Detective Mike Simpler of my office who I have tasked with coordinating these joint multi-police agency operations; and Chief County Detective William Weber who has been assigned to coordinate the community policing efforts with the Williamsport City Police and Lycoming County Sheriff's Office.

Thank you.