

Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York

Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor

80 Centre Street, Sixth Floor
New York, NY 10013
212-815-0400, Gen
212-815-0440, Fax

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Contacts:

Catherine Christian
Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office
212-815-0178

Erin Mulvey
DEA, New York Field Division
212 337-2906

Drugs and Three Guns Seized in Upper West Side Apartment: Stash includes Crack, Cocaine and Oxycodone

BRIDGET G. BRENNAN, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, and Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Division United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) John P. Gilbride announced a major seizure of one kilogram of crack (over 2 lbs.), five kilograms of cocaine (11 lbs.), 350 oxycodone pills and three guns from an apartment building in Manhattan's Upper West Side today.

Law enforcement joined forces in a series of coordinated actions against drug cartels and their associates who operate across the United States. DEA and its law enforcement counterparts have mobilized to increase pressure on these organizations at every level.

In the early evening of Thursday, February 24, 2011, members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force; which is comprised of agents and officers from the DEA, New York Police Department, New York State Police with assistance from Investigators from the New York City Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, were conducting a surveillance on a location that was a suspected drug stash for a Mexican source of supply as part of Operation Bombardier. The apartment building where the stash house was located is on the same block as a high school and a home for the elderly.

Officers observed a male, later identified as EDWIN DIAZ, exit 312 87th Street, Apt. 4C, NY, NY. After identifying themselves as law enforcement, the officers recovered small quantities of cocaine and oxycodone pills from his person. A search warrant for the suspected location, 312 87th Street, Apt. 4C, NY, NY, was obtained and officers recovered one kilogram of crack cocaine, five kilograms of powder, 350 pills of oxycodone and three loaded semi automatic handguns early in the morning of February 25, 2011. In addition numerous ledgers, an undetermined amount of United States Currency and documents were collected. The investigation is continuing.

New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor BRIDGET G. BRENNAN said, "A seizure of this much narcotics and three guns is disturbing under any circumstance. The fact that it was recovered in such a densely populated area, on the same block as a high school and a home for the elderly, makes it all the more alarming."

DEA Special Agent in Charge JOHN P. GILBRIDE stated, "This arrest and these seizures were a direct result of Operation Bombardier. On the upper west side of Manhattan, near a high school, one individual was arrested; three loaded semi automatic handguns, crack, cocaine and oxycodone seized.

These drugs - ready for sale throughout New York - and guns to be used for violence are what fuel the same violence in Mexico responsible for the senseless and cruel death of a United States Federal Agent. DEA and our federal, state and local counterparts continue to be vigilant in identifying, investigating and dismantling drug trafficking organizations throughout our nation.”

These national series of actions illustrate the continued pressure U.S. law enforcement are placing on Mexican cartels and trafficking associates, in coordination and unity with partners in Mexico who are also waging an aggressive fight about these violent groups.

DEA, ICE, U.S. Marshals, and other federal, state, and local entities are attacking these organizations at every level in places such as New York, Atlanta, Houston, El Paso, and Newark, while working with our foreign counterparts in Mexico and Central and South America.