

New London man arrested on narcotics charges, warrants

By HEATHER CHAPIN-FOWLER

NORWALK — A 25-year-old New London man was arrested Sunday on a warrant issued by the Huron County Common Pleas Court for failing to answer to narcotics charges.

Michael Richardson, 25, of New London, was arrested in November with reportedly \$7,760 worth of heroin, the sheriff's office said at the time.

He is facing charges of possession of heroin and possession of cocaine, court records stated.

The bust was part of the METRICH case, a 10-county drug task force, said Capt. Robert McLaughlin, the commander of the Huron County Unit of the METRICH Drug Task Force, at the time.

Richardson failed to show up for a pretrial hearing earlier this year while he was out of jail on bond. The court issued an arrest warrant for him and he was picked up on Sunday at 7 p.m., the sheriff's reports and court records stated.

Sheriff Dane Howard and Deputy Todd Corbin received information Sunday that Richardson was at 8 Earl Court in North Fairfield and arrived to arrest him, the sheriff's reports stated.

Richardson was not only wanted on the narcotics charges but also on several others, the sheriff's reports stated. He was wanted on two warrants for driving under suspension and three warrants for failing to report to jail on bad check convictions, the sheriff's reports stated.

METRICH originally received information from Erie County about Richardson's drug-related activities, which resulted in the investigation and subsequent arrest last year, McLaughlin said at the time.

Richardson had allegedly sold heroin to someone at a Benedict Avenue gas station in Norwalk.

After receiving anonymous information about the sale, police began searching for Richardson.

Norwalk police and the Huron County Sheriff's Office located the green Monte Carlo Richardson was driving but he was not in it.

Richardson apparently fled on foot but was finally apprehended at a Concord Court apartment complex by Sheriff's Major Greg Englund, the department said.

A large amount of heroin, 40 to 60 balloons, was found in Richardson's vehicle following his arrest.

Richardson has a long criminal history that includes burglary, possession of drugs, theft of a motor vehicle, theft of a firearm and four counts of theft.

Richardson fractured both of his legs shortly after arriving at the jail when he jumped off a second-story balcony, according to McLaughlin.

Richardson was treated for his injuries at Fisher-Titus Medical Center in Norwalk, and returned to the Huron County jail following the incident, the sheriff's office

Originally published in the Morning Journal on March 10, 2009