

One arrested after METRICH finds suspected heroin, crack

Authorities arrested a 24-year-old man on drug charges Thursday after several complaints of suspected drug trafficking near a Henry Street residence on the city's south side.

METRICH, with assistance from the Mansfield Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Office and Mansfield office of the FBI, served a drug-related search warrant signed by Judge Frank Ardis at 382 Henry St., Mansfield, according to a METRICH press release.

The search warrant was the result of an investigation after authorities received several complaints of suspected drug trafficking in the area, according to the press release.

During a search of the residence, METRICH detectives found suspected heroin and crack cocaine, according to the press release.

Detectives arrested Wesley Walker, 24, and charged him with two counts of trafficking in drugs and two counts of possession of drugs, according to the press release.

The charges of trafficking in heroin and possession of heroin are second-degree felonies, and the charges of trafficking in cocaine and possession of cocaine are fourth-degree felonies.

Walker was incarcerated at the Richland County Jail, where he awaited a court appearance.

Additional drug trafficking charges will be forwarded to the Richland County Prosecutor's Office for review.

According to Richland County court records, Walker was charged with possession of heroin and cocaine, both fifth-degree felonies. He was sentenced to a diversion program in July 2014.

After violating drug court conditions, he was sentenced to 24 months in prison in April 2015, according to court records.

In a separate drug possession case, Walker was charged with aggravated possession of drugs, a fifth-degree felony. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to an additional six months in prison in November 2015.

"The METRICH Enforcement Unit continues to target those individuals selling drugs in the community and urges the community to continue reporting suspected drug activity," METRICH Commander Lieutenant Joseph Petrycki said in the press release. "The complaints received about 328 Henry St. assisted the detectives in this investigation."

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