

Two arrested following drug search warrant

Two men with ties to the Detroit area were arrested Thursday in Fostoria in what police say is an ongoing investigation into the distribution of fentanyl out of the city in Michigan.

According to a news release from the Seneca County Drug Task Force-METRICH Enforcement Unit, a search warrant was executed at a Peeler Drive home on Thursday, resulting in the arrest of a resident, Dejohn Simpson, 31, formerly of Detroit. Also arrested was Verlandus M. Dickerson-Robinson, 33, of Redford Twp., Michigan.

Simpson was arrested on a first-degree felony charge of trafficking in a fentanyl-related compound, while Dickerson-Robinson was charged with possession of a fentanyl-related compound, a third-degree felony.

Both men were taken to the Seneca County Jail, pending laboratory analysis on the suspected narcotics and their arraignment in Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court. Charges of permitting drug abuse and endangering children are pending on another resident of the Peeler Drive residence, Brooke A. Ferguson, 29, at the conclusion of the investigation, the news release said.

The warrant, signed by Judge Jay Meyer of Seneca County Common Pleas Court, resulted in the recovery of nearly 85 grams of suspected fentanyl, money, criminal tools and other items indicative of drug trafficking, according to the news release.

"The task force was receiving steady information of suspected drug trafficking by Mr. Simpson, which began the investigation on this residence," Fostoria Police Chief Gabe Wedge said. "According to the task force, this is an 'ongoing' investigation into the distribution of fentanyl out of the Detroit, Michigan, area. Mr. Simpson recently moved into our city, and we want to send a strong message to those who supplant themselves into our community to peddle their poison, and that is the distribution of any illicit drugs will not be tolerated."

METRICH executed Thursday's bust with assistance from the Seneca County Sheriff's Office, the Tiffin Police Department, the Fostoria Police Division and the Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Unit.

Thursday's arrests followed the sentencing of Anthony N. Nix, 38, formerly of Detroit, who was residing at a Buckley Street home. Nix pleaded guilty to four drug-related charges related to an April 2021 drug bust and will serve 12 to 15 years in prison. Another person arrested in the April 2021 case, Crystal N.E. Dayton, 34, was sentenced in February to seven to 10.5 years in prison on two charges.

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