



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Undercover Drug Operation Nets 163 Indictments

One hundred sixty-three indictments for eighty-eight persons on drug related charges have been returned by an Anderson County Grand Jury after investigations by the Anderson County Sheriff's Department in cooperation with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Oak Ridge, Lake City, Oliver Springs, and Clinton Police Departments, the Norris Department of Public Safety, and the Campbell County Sheriff's Department. This cooperation led to the indictments of several of the eighty-eight individuals.

The Sheriff's Special Operations Unit conducted these drug investigations over the last several months. Persons indicted for manufacture, sales, delivery, or possession either sold to undercover agents or were in possession of illegal drugs for resale. These indictments also include charges resulting from meth lab investigations and the purchase of pseudoephedrine. Charges include sale or possession for resale of marijuana, cocaine, and prescription or legend drugs, as well as methamphetamine related offenses. Thirty-nine persons were indicted for prescription narcotics related offenses. Twenty-seven were indicted for "smurfing" or the purchase of pseudoephedrine for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine. Eleven persons were indicted on meth related offenses and ten persons for marijuana charges. Four were indicted for sales of crack cocaine. Three persons were indicted on sales or possession for resale of more than one type of drug. Three were charged with violations of the drug free school zone. Twenty-eight persons are charged with multiple counts of drug offenses.

As a part of these ongoing investigations, twenty-three search warrants were served over the past few months. Twenty-eight vehicles have already been seized with an additional seven more to be seized in connection with these cases.

Anderson County Sheriff's deputies, along with officers from the Oak Ridge, Lake City, Oliver Springs, and Clinton Police Departments, the Campbell County Sheriff's Department, State Troopers from the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and Deputy Marshals from the U.S. Marshals Service and the Smoky Mountains Fugitive Task Force will be out over the next several days arresting those persons indicted. This operation also includes officials from the District Attorney's Office, the Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force, and the Counterdrug Task Force of the Tennessee National Guard.

These indictments come after much hard work by investigators of the Sheriff's Special Operations Unit as well as all those law enforcement agencies who worked on these cases. The District Attorney General's Office spent many hours assisting investigators by preparing and presenting these cases to the Grand Jury.

"This cooperative effort has once again led to a number of arrests on drug charges," said Sheriff Paul White. "While these individuals are charged with drug offenses, the emphasis is on overall crime issues. Illegal drug activity touches every crime from bad checks to property crimes such as burglary and theft. Drugs are a large part of the violent crimes of robberies and home invasions."

"We will continue to work with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to go after those who sell drugs in Anderson County," continued Sheriff White. "Our thanks to all of the law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney's Office for their help in this operation."

"Citizens and drug dealers alike should know that law enforcement in Anderson County is working hard and working together to constantly run undercover operations," remarked District Attorney General Dave Clark. "Drug dealers aren't welcome here so they would be well advised to quit what they are doing or leave."

Drug enforcement is one of the top priorities for the Anderson County Sheriff's Department. From 2007 through 2009, the Sheriff's Department arrested 732 persons for drug offenses ranging from possession of drug paraphernalia and simple possession; to sales and delivery of cocaine, methamphetamine, and prescription narcotics. During the first three months of 2010, Sheriff's deputies and investigators have made seventy-eight drug related arrests.

It is expected to take several days to make arrests on these indictments. Sheriff's investigators will also be conducting follow-up investigations on many of these cases. The names of those arrested or wanted in connection with these indictments will be released at a later date.

Sheriff Paul White