

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

COUNTY OF WARREN

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PRESS RELEASE

CHARGED:

Charlie L. Cole
205 Mercer Street
Phillipsburg, N.J.
DOB: 03/06/1979

Shakiera Armstrong
205 Mercer Street
Phillipsburg, N.J.
DOB: 02/08/1992

On October 26, 2023, Charlie L. Cole, 44, and Shakiera Armstrong, 31, of Phillipsburg, were arrested and charged after an investigation into narcotics trafficking within the Town of Phillipsburg. Pursuant to that investigation, a search warrant was executed at 205 Mercer Street. As a result of the search, significant quantities of various controlled dangerous substances were discovered. The substances include approximately four (4) pounds of methamphetamine, ten (10) ounces of cocaine, forty-two (42) bricks of heroin (approximately 2,000 individual doses), and four and one-half (4 ½) pounds of marijuana. In addition, a loaded .40 caliber handgun was discovered adjacent to the controlled dangerous substances along with \$14,000 in U.S. Currency. The street value of the narcotics seized is over \$100,000.

Mr. Cole is believed and alleged to be the leader of the largest narcotics trafficking network in Warren County. This seizure represents what is believed to be the largest seizure of illegal drugs from one single dealer operating and distributing illegal drugs within the County.

As a result, Cole and Armstrong were charged with the following offenses and are being held at the Warren County Jail pending a hearing:

COLE	ARMSTRONG
Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network First Degree, 2C:35-3	
Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine First Degree, 2C:35-5(b)(8)	Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine First Degree, 2C:35-5(b)(8)
Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine First Degree, 2C:35-5(b)(1)	Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine First Degree, 2C:35-5(b)(1)
Possession with Intent to Distribute Heroin Second Degree, 2C:35-5(b)(2)	Possession with Intent to Distribute Heroin Second Degree, 2C:35-5(b)(2)
Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana Third Degree, 2C:35-5(b)(11)	Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana Third Degree, 2C:35-5(b)(11)
Unlawful Possession of a Handgun Second Degree, 2C:39-4	Unlawful Possession of a Handgun Second Degree, 2C:39-5
Possession of Firearm during a CDS Offense Second Degree, 2C:39-4.1a	Possession of Firearm during a CDS Offense Second Degree, 2C:39-4.1a

Certain Person Not to Possess Firearms First Degree, 2C:39-7	
Endangering the Welfare of a Child Second Degree, 2C:24-4	Endangering the Welfare of a Child Second Degree, 2C:24-4

Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network carries a maximum potential sentence of life in prison. First Degree charges carry a maximum potential sentence of 20 years in New Jersey State Prison. Second Degree charges carry a maximum potential sentence of 10 years in New Jersey State Prison. Third Degree crimes carry a maximum potential sentence of 5 years in New Jersey State Prison.

The Warren County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Task Force, Phillipsburg Police Department, New Jersey State Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation jointly conducted the investigation.

Please be advised that the charges are merely accusations and that the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial beyond a reasonable doubt.



Approved by:

JAMES L. PFEIFFER

Date: October 26, 2023

Warren County Prosecutor