

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DA SPOTA ANNOUNCES EIGHT ARRESTS IN NY-TO- LONG ISLAND HEROIN RING

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota today announced the arrests of a Brooklyn man and seven Long Island residents, including a father and his son, in the takedown of a New York City-to-Suffolk heroin distribution network. The district attorney's Heroin Task Force in conjunction with New York State Police seized 19,000 glassine envelopes of heroin packaged for street sales, one-quarter of a kilogram of pure uncut heroin as well as other narcotics including cocaine, methamphetamines, and anabolic steroids. The main Suffolk County dealer charged with 18 drug-related crimes including Operating as a Major Drug Trafficker, a class "A" felony, is Richard Bruno Jr., 26, of 1410 Spruce Drive in Holbrook, District Attorney Spota said. His father, Richard Bruno Sr., 59, of 66 Cedar Oaks Avenue in Farmingville stored his son's heroin in the attic of his home. In addition to the heroin and an illegal defaced handgun recovered from the Farmingville house, task force detectives recovered \$192,000 in cash from a safe and wads of cash totaling \$37,000 stashed in the rafters of the attic.

District Attorney Spota said investigators also learned during the course of the investigation that the senior Bruno advised his son to launder his heroin profits by establishing a marijuana grow house in rural Pennsylvania and to explain the large utility bills generated by growing pot indoors by growing flowers and tomatoes as well.

Richard Bruno Jr. purchased the heroin for resale in Suffolk from codefendant Jonathan Rincon, 26, of Brooklyn who is also charged with Operating as a Major Drug Trafficker. Rincon is on parole for a narcotics felony out of Queens County. "From Rincon's apartment on Ocean Avenue, we seized approximately 5,000 bags worth of uncut heroin and \$60,000 cash," DA Spota said.

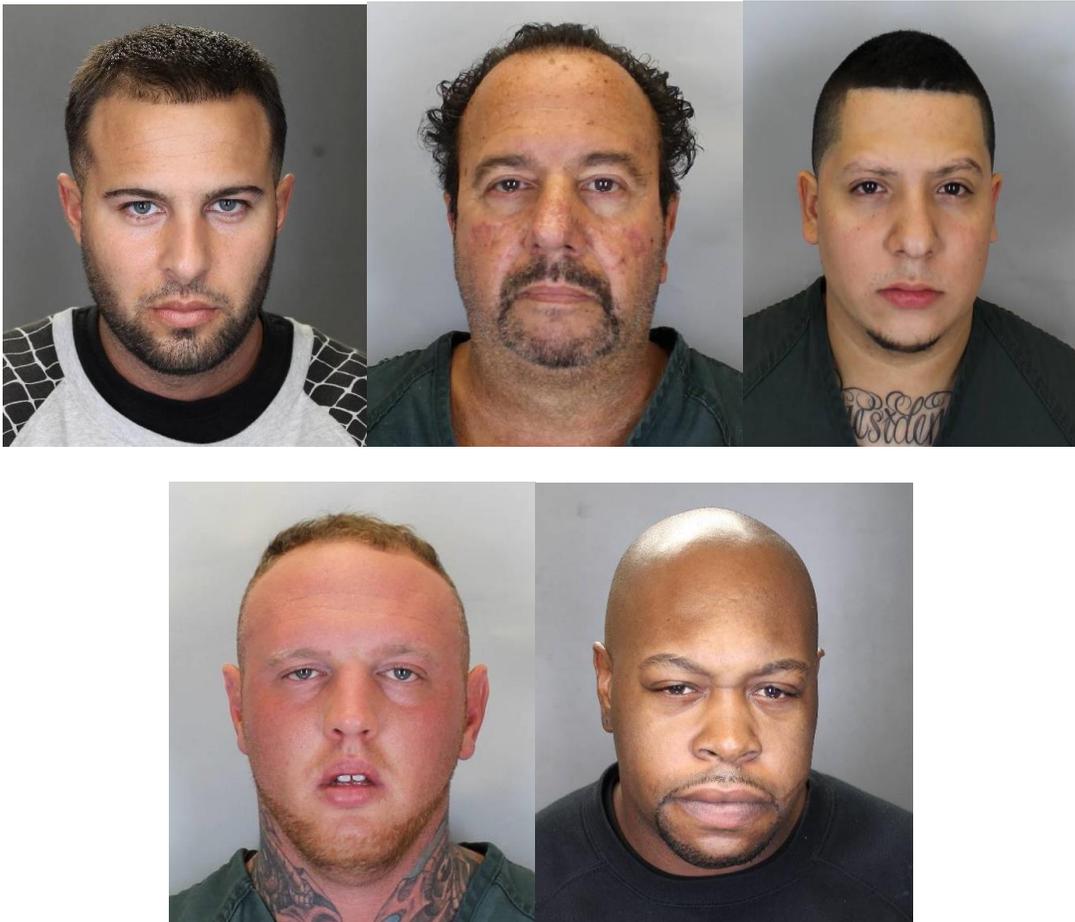
Another parolee on a conviction for drug sales, Rodney Montalvo, 39, was based at the Clarion Hotel on Veterans Memorial Hwy in Ronkonkoma. Montalvo, charged with conspiracy to sell narcotics in the second degree, picked up 300 to 500 bags of heroin every other day to sell in Suffolk County.

The third defendant in the ring charged with the top count of Operating as a Major Drug Trafficker and other crimes is Bryan Koppelman, 32, of Selden who regularly sold heroin from his home on Dare Road near an elementary school. "We also know that while the defendant's

girlfriend was hospitalized in Stony Brook to give birth to their son, Koppelman sold heroin on hospital grounds, and on more than one occasion he brought his newborn baby along to drug deals,” District Attorney Spota said.

Defendant Erick Castor of Pickwick Lane in North Babylon allegedly purchased large amounts of cocaine from Bruno for resale in the Hamptons and in North Babylon. The district attorney noted Castor, 30, is charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance both in the third and seventh degrees, conspiracy in the fourth degree, and is currently on parole for a conviction on a charge of criminal sale of a controlled substance in the second degree.

Captain James Dewar of the New York State Police and Chief Deputy Sheriff Michael Sharkey representing their respective law enforcement agencies as members of the Heroin Task Force attended the news conference. “While we are well aware that only a multipronged approach to the problem including education and treatment will work, law enforcement interdiction efforts must stem the tide of this terrible scourge. And, indeed we continue to use every tool we can to stop the flow of heroin into our County,” DA Spota said.



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Be advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.