



City of Port Jervis Police Chief William Worden, Town of Wallkill Police Chief Robert C. Hertman and Orange County District Attorney David M. Hoovler Announce Narcotics Seizure

Port Jervis Man Charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree for possessing 46 grams of Fentanyl, 10.7 grams of Cocaine and 16 Suboxone Strips

Port Jervis Police Department, Orange County Drug Taskforce, the Town of Wallkill Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff's Special Operations Group execute Search Warrant in Town of Wallkill Hotel Room

City of Port Jervis Police Chief William Worden, Town of Wallkill Police Chief Robert Hertman and Orange County District Attorney David M. Hoovler announced that on July 14, 2021, Sheldon Cooper, age 35, of Port Jervis, was arrested on charges including Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, following the execution of a search warrant at the Hampton Inn hotel located in Town of Wallkill. The Orange County Sheriff's Office Special Operations Group aided in the execution of the search warrant at the hotel. The seizure was the result of an investigation conducted by the City of Port Jervis Police Department, who were assisted by the Orange County Drug Taskforce, and the Town of Wallkill Police Department. Cooper was arrested by the Town of Wallkill Police Department.

Among the items seized during the execution of the search warrant were approximately 46 grams of suspected fentanyl, approximately 10.7 grams of cocaine, sixteen suboxone strips, a digital scale, packaging materials commonly used for narcotics sales, \$4,621.00 and approximately 34.5 grams of a substance commonly used as cutting agent by those involved in narcotics sales. The charge of Endangering the Welfare of a Child stem from allegations that the defendant had a two and a half-year-old child in the rooms with the suspected narcotics. The search warrant, which was drafted with the aid of the Orange County District Attorney's Office, was part of an investigation into the illicit narcotics sales in the City of Port Jervis.

Another person in the hotel room was wanted by Pennsylvania authorities for failing to appear in court.

Cooper is being held at the Orange County Jail with no bail as a result of an alleged Parole violation. He is next scheduled to appear in the Town of Wallkill Court in connection with these charges on July 15, 2021.

Port Jervis Police Chief William Worden commended his police officers and the other law enforcement agencies that assisted them and told the public, “We will continue to proactively investigate illicit narcotics activity in our community and work with our law enforcement partners to hold drug dealers accountable for their actions.

Town of Wallkill Police Chief Robert Hertman said, “For many years Town of Wallkill residents, like residents of many other communities, have been negatively impacted by illegal narcotics. During the pandemic, drug overdoses have surged in part because of the deadlier supply of fentanyl. The Town of Wallkill Police Department remains steadfast in our two-prong approach to addressing the opioid epidemic. Under the first prong, our goal is to help those addicted to illegal narcotics through the Hope Not Handcuffs program. Nonetheless, under the second prong, we remain committed to arresting those who sell illegal dangerous narcotics in our community. Today’s arrest with our law enforcement partners demonstrates our commitment to taking enforcement action against those who traffic deadly fentanyl.”

“We have seen far too many overdose deaths due to fentanyl,” said District Attorney David M. Hoovler. “I commend the efforts of the Port Jervis Police Department, and the collaborative efforts all the other law enforcement agencies who aided in this investigation and in this search warrant execution. Fentanyl is a particularly lethal substance and the removal of 46 grams of that drug makes the community safer. While those who are addicted to drugs need and deserve our compassion and assistance, those who profit from selling these frequently lethal substances deserve punishment, particularly those who sell large quantities for profit.”

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Janine Kovacs.

A criminal charge is merely an allegation by the police that a defendant has committed a violation of the criminal law, and it is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the State of New York’s burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.