

“Expect Excellence”

CITY OF AUBURN

Department of Police

James T. Slayton

Chief of Police

Roger J. Anthony

Deputy Chief of Police

Mark Schattinger
Captain of Patrol

Kyle J. Platt
Captain of Detectives

Timothy A. Spingler
*Administrative Sergeant
of Planning & Training*

Kristine M. Wilkinson
*Administrative Assistant
to the Chiefs of Police*

Media Release

Date/Time of Release: 08-29-22 3:00 PM

Date of Incident Occurrence: 08-29-22 6:00 AM

Nature of Event: Drug Investigation

Location of Event Occurrence: City of Auburn

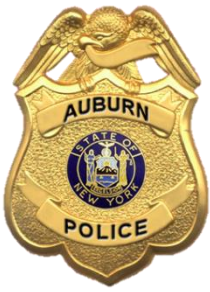
Media Release Written By: Lt. Androsko

On August 29, 2022 members of the Finger Lakes Drug Task Force, Auburn Police Department, New York State Police, Cayuga County Sheriff’s Office, US Marshal Service, US Army National Guard Counter Drug, and Cayuga County District Attorney’s Office arrested multiple people who were part of a drug investigation. This drug investigation started in the City of Auburn and was later discovered to encompass most of Central New York along with having ties across the United States to California.

Finger Lakes Drug Task Force members have been investigating this drug organization since April of 2021. The leaders of the organization were Nicholas Neville and Merritt Fletcher IV. Both Neville and Fletcher are known gang members of the gang “Gorilla Stone Nation” which is Blood Sect.

The months following Finger Lakes Drug Task Force members developed the case against Neville and Fletcher by using various investigative techniques and practices. During the investigation it was found that Neville and Fletcher were being resupplied with cocaine from New York City and City of Rochester. It was also found that the drug organization was also being supplied with pressed blue fentanyl pills and methamphetamine from California.

On January 13, 2022 search warrants were executed by members of the Finger Lakes Drug Task Force, Auburn Police Department, Cayuga County Sheriff’s, New York State Police, and Cayuga County District Attorney’s Office. During the execution of the search warrants multiple specialized units were utilized. The units were as followed: Auburn Police ERT, Cayuga County Sheriff’s ERT, New York State Police SWAT, New York State Police Violent Gang Narcotic Enforcement Team from C, D, and E Troop, Cayuga County Sheriff’s K-9 Unit, New York State Police K-9 Units, and US Army National Guard Counter Drug. The locations of these search warrants ranged from City of Auburn to City of Cortland.



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Upon the execution of the search warrants on January 13, 2022 approximately 2.6 kilos of cocaine, 1.5 lbs of methamphetamine, over 1 lb of pressed blue fentanyl blues (approximately 7,000 pills), two defaced handguns, over \$20,000 in US Currency, \$15,000 in jewelry, a kilo hydraulic press, and multiple cutting agents were located and seized.

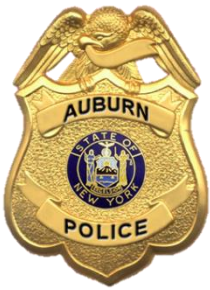
On April 6, 2022 in furtherance with the investigation Finger Lakes Drug Task Force executed a search warrant on a storage locker at storage locker facility in the City of Syracuse. Upon executing the search warrant at the storage facility approximately 70,000 pressed blue fentanyl pills were seized. Following this portion of the investigation two more handguns were also located and seized. Also on April 6, 2022 across the country DEA Bakersfield, California executed search warrants that were associated with this case. DEA Bakersfield seized 103,000 pressed blue fentanyl pills, 133 grams of fentanyl, 30 grams of cocaine, 17 firearms, and \$33,000.

Due to New York State's new bail reform and discovery laws along the magnitude of the case, Task Force members were forced to wait to charge all suspects involved. After months of rigorous work by the Cayuga County District Attorney's Office preparing for the case they produced over a ten person indictment along with eight arrest-warrants resulting in today's arrests.

This drug investigation is the largest seizure of drugs in Cayuga County within the past ten years.

If you have any information in regards to this investigation or any parties involved please contact the Finger Lakes Drug Task Force at 315-282-7540, or if you wish to inform us of another organization dealing drugs in your area please call.

We would like to thank the long list of law enforcement agencies that assisted us (FLDTF) on this case, thank you.



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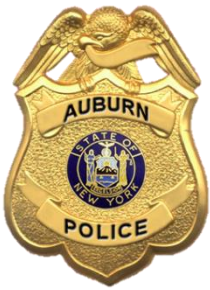
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Seizures From January 13, 2022 Search warrants.



Seizure from Syracuse storage locker on April 6, 2022.



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Seizure from DEA Bakersfield April 6, 2022.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Arrest</u>	<u>Charges</u>
Merritt F. Fletcher	7/1/2022	PL 265.03.03 Crim Poss Weapon 3, PL 220.21.01 Crim Poss Narc Drug 1



Nicholas M. Neville	7/5/2022	PL 265.03.03 Crim Poss Weapon 3, PL 220.21.01 Crim Poss Narc Drug 1
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Caitlyn E. Jacobs	6/29/2022	PL 265.01.B Crim Poss Firearm, PL 220.21.01 Crim Poss Narc Drug 1
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Calvin D. Wilson	8/29/2022	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
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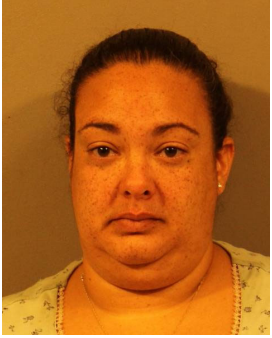
Rondell T. Smith	8/29/2022	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
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Taquann R. Jones	8/29/2022	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
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Jennifer A. Richardson	8/29/2022	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
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Chalise A. Bullock	8/29/2022	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2, Crim Poss Narc Drug 1
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Robert N. O'Hara III	8/29/2022	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
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Kyle T. Lerch	8/29/2022	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
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Jacalynn A. Jacobs	8/29/2022	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
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Brittani N. Dias	8/29/2022	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
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Michael J. Wiltsie	8/29/2022	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
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Dyतालion P. Dennis	8/29/2022	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
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Michael L. Jenkins	8/29/2022	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
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Donald J. Sampson	8/29/2022	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
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Serena Turner	in Texas - active warrant	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
Marcus Brumberger	Incarcerated - active warrant	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2
Matthew Hehn	active warrant	PL 105.15 Conspiracy 2