



Macon County Sheriff's Office

18 Patton Avenue
Franklin, North Carolina 28734
Phone: (828) 349-2104 Fax: (828) 349-2275



SHERIFF ROBERT L. HOLLAND

PRESS RELEASE

OPERATION

"THUNDERSTRUCK"

SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

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Today during pre-dawn raids, Officers with the Macon & Jackson County Sheriff's Offices, State Bureau of Investigations, District Attorney's Office, Franklin & Highlands Police, NC Probation & Parole and agents with the DEA, ATF, and Homeland Security initiated raids on residences throughout Macon County serving warrants for drug related charges. These arrests follow a covert undercover operation conducted by members of the Macon County Sheriff's Narcotics Unit. Investigators have spent several months gathering intelligence on individuals suspected of selling various illegal substances throughout Macon County. Based on information gathered, officers were able to identify individual sources involved in criminal activity and were able to arrange multiple purchases and deliveries of narcotics & other illegal substances. Some of the information gathered by the Sheriff's Office included tips from citizens in the community. Substances purchased during the operation included methamphetamine, opiates, prescription drugs and heroin.

During an early morning briefing, officers from all the agencies involved in the "Round-Up" gathered at the Macon County Detention Center and were provided with the names, photos, addresses, charges and brief summary of those to be arrested. Multiple teams of officers then set out and initiated arrests. Of the twenty-five suspects targeted in the operation, 20 have been arrested at the time of this Press Release. One suspect was already in custody in Georgia on unrelated charges. Sheriff Robert Holland states, "We are grateful that our community places enough trust in us to provide crucial information to help identify illegal activities in their community. While some citizens may think that the information they provide falls on deaf ears, the fact is officers work diligently to follow up with information and build cases where appropriate. This operation serves as an example of why sharing information and building partnerships in the community is so important. We always appreciate the help & support from our citizens."

We are currently seeking the assistance of the public in locating the remaining suspects who currently face criminal charges. Information on each of those "WANTED" individuals will be attached to this Press Release and can also be found on our agency website at <http://www.maconnc.org/sheriffs-office.html> or our MCSO Facebook page. As of 11:00 am Thursday September 8, the following suspects are listed as "WANTED" by the MCSO:

1. Jeremy Burr
2. Jonathan Key
3. Leslie Jones

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4. Doyle "Dooger" Ramirez
5. Connor Sim

Sheriff Robert Holland concludes, "While many of these suspects may be fighting their own demons and feeding their own addictions, the fact is, each were benefiting financially and contributing to the crime in our county. Each played a significant role in distributing the same poison into our community that is becoming an epidemic nationally. All of these suspects arrested made a conscious decision to get into the business of selling drugs and did so without any concern or compassion for the families they were helping to destroy."

Sheriff Robert Holland

Macon County Sheriff

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