



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Interstate drug distribution organization targeted by three DAs, local and federal law enforcement

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Four men were arrested Wednesday in what prosecutors described as a major interstate marijuana distribution organization, resulting in the seizure of more than \$150,000 in drug profits, 150 growing marijuana plants at two locations, one illegal firearm and total marijuana with a street value of more than \$250,000.

“This investigation began with US Postal Inspectors contacting State Police detectives attached to Plymouth District Attorney Tim Cruz’s office in March, and eventually resulted in more investigation in Bristol and Norfolk Counties,” said Michael Morrissey, the District Attorney of Norfolk County, where State Police attached to his office eventually made the arrests. “Bristol District Attorney Sam Sutter readily assigned police personnel and helped coordinate the Attleboro effort.”

“In the early hours of Wednesday, we had roughly 40 police officers fanned out with search warrants for five properties in Quincy, one location in North Attleboro and seven motor vehicles,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “Huge sums of cash were found in the presence of drugs, drug packaging and distribution materials, at one location a firearm, and at two other locations sophisticated marijuana growing operations with a total of more than 150 plants at various stages of development.”

District Attorney Morrissey praised Plymouth DA Cruz and Bristol DA Sutter, the State Police detective units attached to their offices, as well as US Postal inspectors and police officers from Quincy and North Attleboro for excellent inter-agency cooperation in the three-month investigation. “This is a good example of how cooperation between law enforcement agencies should work at the federal, state and local levels,” Morrissey said. “The results here prove that out.”

“The search warrants were issued based on a tremendous amount of surveillance, investigation and good police work,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “The substantial weights of marijuana that were seized, the packaging materials and records, the indoor marijuana farms and the large sums of cash all of that points to a major distribution network.” Law enforcement is holding five of the searched vehicles for possible forfeiture proceedings.

US Postal Inspectors first contacted state officials with information that significant packages of marijuana had been detected en route to several cities in Eastern Massachusetts from locations in the western United States.

Entering pleas of not guilty at their arraignments in Quincy District Court on Wednesday were:

1. Jian Li, DOB: 10/15/81, 500A Falls Boulevard, Quincy, charged with possession with intent to distribute a class D substance and conspiracy to violate the controlled substance act. He was ordered held on \$25,000 cash bail and ordered to surrender his passport if bail is met. Defense Attorney: Chris McCardle
2. Benson Lee, DOB 06/12/80, 11Rosewood Street, Mattapan, conspiracy possess marijuana with intent to distribute. His bail was revoked on an open case out of Malden District Court and \$25,000 cash bail was placed on the Quincy charges. Defense Attorney Mike Furey.
3. Baihua Chen, DOB 11/01/75, 153 Atlantic Street, Quincy, Possession with intent to distribute class D substance and conspiracy to violate the drug law. The Commonwealth requested \$10,000 cash bail and \$5,000 cash bail and surrender of passport was ordered. Defense Attorney Paul Sullivan.
4. Quan Li, DOB: 1/24/76, 40 French St., Quincy, possession with intent to distribute class D substance, distribution of a Class D Substance, Conspiracy to violate the drug law. Ordered held on \$25,000 cash and must surrender passport.

All defendants are due back in Quincy District Court on June 17, 2011.

District Attorney Morrissey said the investigation continues.

All defendants enjoy the Constitutional presumption of innocence until proven guilty; criminal charges are accusations.