CHATHAM-SAVANNAH COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM

Everett Ragan, Director



Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CNT Makes Additional Arrests in the Tobacco Palace Investigation

SAVANNAH, Georgia (May 6, 2019): The Chatham-Savannah Counter Narcotics Team has made additional arrests in the Tobacco Palace investigation following findings from the crime lab.

On May 2, 2019, CNT re-arrested one of the Tobacco Palace's owners, 42-year-old Hitesh Patel. Also arrested were two employees, 42-year-old Prileshkumar Patel and 57-year-old Shailesh Patel. All three people were charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Distribute and Violation of the Georgia Controlled Substance Act. All three persons were booked into the Chatham County Detention Center and have since been released on bond.

The charges stem from items that were originally seized by CNT during search warrants at two Tobacco Palace locations on January 18, 2019, located at 139 East Montgomery Crossroads, and Tobacco Palace located at 13051 Abercorn Street Suite A-6. Some of the seized items were sent to the Georgia Bureau of Investigations Crime Lab and returned positive for Synesthetic Marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance. The brand names that returned positive were Magic Puff, Butterfly, Kentucky Route, Blazed, Mega Gold, and Kronic. All items were CBD pens.

This is an ongoing investigation and additional charges and arrests are possible.
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