

CHATHAM-SAVANNAH COUNTER

NARCOTICS TEAM

Everett Ragan, Director



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CNT Conducts Various Operations Resulting in Large Seizures

CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA (September 30, 2019): Multiple people are in custody following various operations conducted on Friday.

During the early morning hours of Friday, September 27, 2019, the Chatham-Savannah Counter Narcotics Team (CNT) Clandestine Response team and the Savannah Police Department's SWAT team executed a search warrant in the 4500 block of Ogeechee Road. The search warrant resulted in the seizure of various forms of controlled substances to include a large amount of fentanyl, crystal methamphetamine, methylenedioxymethamphetamine (ecstasy), cocaine, and other substances that are currently unidentified. Also seized was more than \$800 and six firearms. Four of the firearms returned stolen.

CNT arrested 43-year-old Dale Bowers, 40-year-old Wendy Helme, 41-year-old Berlin Thornton, all of Savannah. Bowers was charged with multiple felony charges to include Trafficking Fentanyl, Trafficking Methamphetamine, and Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Felony. Helme and Thornton were both charged with multiple drug-related charges to include Possession of a Controlled Substance (Crack Cocaine). All three remain in the Chatham County Detention Center. Additional charges and arrests are expected.

CNT's investigation began in early August after receiving information heroin suspected to be laced with fentanyl was being sold from the residence. Undercover CNT agents began to make narcotic purchases from the residence and identified the persons involved. On the morning of the search warrant, CNT's Clandestine Response team searched the location to ensure agents would not be exposed to a clandestine threat.

In a separate investigation and later that same day, CNT executed a search of a hotel room at the Deluxe Inn located at 3680 Ogeechee Road. Agents seized a

variety of controlled substances to include heroin, powdered cocaine, and crack cocaine. Agents also seized items consistent with the distribution of controlled substances, two firearms, one of which returned stolen. CNT arrested 37-year-old Luther Ward III of Savannah. Ward was charged with Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon and is currently being held at the Chatham County Detention Center. Additional charges are expected.

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