



La Porte County Drug Task Force

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GUN AND DRUGS SEIZED IN EARLY MORNING RAID IN LAPORTE

La Porte County, IN, November 8, 2019– The La Porte County Drug Task Force (LCDTF), a HIDTA Initiative, announces the arrest of an individual for illegal narcotic and firearm possession. This morning’s raid was a joint effort involving the Laporte County Drug Task Force, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm and Explosives (ATF), the LaPorte County ERT (Emergency Response Team), and Shift 3 Officers from the LaPorte Police Department.

On Friday morning (11/08/2019), at approximately 5:00 a.m., members of the LaPorte County Drug Task Force and LaPorte County ERT executed a State of Indiana search warrant in the 500 block of Brighton Street in LaPorte. This search warrant was the result of a several month-long Investigation of drug related crimes. The subsequent search of the home revealed an illegally possessed firearm, illegal drugs, drug packaging materials, and paraphernalia. The seized firearm had been reported stolen in a separate Theft Investigation in rural Laporte County.

As a result of the LCDTF’s investigation, a 35 year-old Laporte man was taken into custody on Drug and Weapons charges during the raid. Pending charges will be presented to the Laporte Circuit Court, for probable cause, charging the arrested person with two counts of Dealing in Cocaine or

Narcotic Drug, Level 2 Felony, Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon, Level 4 Felony and Possession of Methamphetamine, Level 6 Felony.

Lt. Tim Richardson, Commander of the LaPorte County Drug Task Force, praised the efforts of the officers and detectives involved in this morning's raid. The firearm seized during the raid this morning was within reach of the suspect upon ERT members entering the home. The tactics utilized by the Laporte County ERT, while quickly securing the suspect, led to no officers or citizens being injured. Lt. Tim Richardson also thanks the public for their assistance in reporting drug trafficking in the general area of the raid. Richardson states "getting illegally possessed firearms off the streets of LaPorte County is priority #1 for area Law Enforcement."

Today's raid follows the prior arrests of eight (8) individuals in the months leading up to today's efforts. Over the past several months, LCDTF detectives had completed numerous controlled purchases of Crystal Methamphetamine in LaPorte (City). Those months long efforts led to the recent arrests of eight (8) individuals on charges of Dealing in Methamphetamine. These eight (8) individuals have been charged in Laporte Circuit Court and their cases remain pending.

LaPorte Chief of Police, Julie Smith, is extremely thankful for the efforts of the Laporte County Drug Task Force this morning and specifically to her department's detective assigned to the Drug Task Force. Chief Smith is also thankful for the on-going drug tips from the public that point investigators in the right directions, in so that they can complete investigations such as these noted above. Chief Smith states "getting these dangerous drugs and firearms off the streets of LaPorte will not only be a focus of the LCDTF but an overall law enforcement focus."

Both the LaPorte County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) also assisted in the above noted cases.

The La Porte County Drug Task Force asks anyone with information about criminal activity, including gun violence, to contact them at 219-873-1488, or via social media.

*****Arrests and criminal charges are mere accusations. Every person is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.*****

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Lt. Tim Richardson at 219-874-3221 or email at trichardson@emichigancity.com.