

PRESS RELEASE

Hoboken Police arrest two suspected drug dealers following resident complaints



Caption: Mario Cruz and Malik High, both of Hoboken, were recently arrested following community complaints of illegal drug sales

The Hoboken Police Department (HPD) announces the arrest of two individuals for illegal narcotics distribution offenses following an investigation into alleged drug activity within the Hoboken Housing Authority (HHA).

The investigation, by the Hoboken Police Department's Detective Bureau and Street Crimes Unit, began after residents and HHA administrators reported concerns about suspected illegal narcotics distribution, drug use, and trespassing in the area.

On May 1, detectives observed a hand-to-hand narcotics transaction on the 500 block of Jackson Street and identified the seller as 31-year-old Malik High of Hoboken. He was charged with distribution of CDS, distribution within 1,000 feet of a school zone, and distribution within 500 feet of public housing. High was arrested on May 27 and additionally charged with possession with intent to distribute heroin after he was found to be in possession of suspected CDS and currency believed to be proceeds from narcotics sales

On May 5, detectives observed another suspected narcotics transaction on the 300 block of Jackson Street. A follow up investigation identified 53-year-old Mario Cruz, of Hoboken, as the seller. Cruz was arrested on May 7 and charged with distribution of crack cocaine, distribution within 1,000 feet of a school zone, and distribution within 500 feet of public housing.

Three other individuals, identified as 63-year-old Joseph Rivera of Hoboken, 47-year-old Ricardo Hernandez of North Bergen, and 48-year-old Jacobo Guevara of Union City, were also arrested during the investigations, on drug possession charges.

“These arrests are the direct result of concerns raised by residents and our continued commitment to addressing quality-of-life issues in our community,” **said Police Chief Steven Aguiar.** “We will continue working closely with the community to investigate and disrupt illegal narcotics activity in Hoboken.”

Additional charges may be filed as the investigations continue. All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Press inquiries: mrubin@hobokennj.gov