



METRO NARCOTICS JACKSON MADISON COUNTY

447 EAST MAIN STREET * JACKSON, TENNESSEE 38301
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PRESS RELEASE, 01-20-12

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER ARRESTED FOR SALE OF SYNHTETIC DRUGS AND METHAMPHETAMINE INGREDIENT

On 01-20-12, Jackson-Madison County Metro Narcotics Investigators served a search warrant at the "Xpress Mart" convenience store located at 2016 South Highland Avenue. The search revealed 208 packages of synthetic drugs including both synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic methcathinones. Additionally, the search revealed two 1,000 gram and one 500 gram bulk containers of Potassium Iodide which is a DEA List I precursor used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Zip-loc bags of Potassium Iodide in 14 gram and 26 gram weights were marked with dollar values for sale. The store owner, Shyam Patel was present at the service of the warrant and was taken into custody.

Prices on different products vary, however the synthetic drugs seized have a minimum resell value of \$3,100 and other evidence indicates that previous synthetic sales have been valued at a minimum of \$6,400. The amount of Potassium Iodide indicates a value in excess of \$4,800. In addition to the contraband inventory, \$20,300 in U.S. currency and coins was seized under the civil forfeiture laws of the Tennessee Drug Control Act.

Shyam Baldev Patel, age 33, of 3122 Riverside Drive in Jackson was charged with Promotion of Methamphetamine Manufacture, Possession of Synthetic Cannabinoid Substances and Possession of Synthetic Methcathinone Substances. He is currently being held at the Madison County Criminal Justice Complex where he awaits arraignment in Jackson City Court

Synthetic drugs are disguised as legal products such as herbal incense, bath salts, plant foods and other substances which are marketed as products not to be consumed by humans. However, these same products are advertised within the drug culture as substances that can be ingested giving the user the same type of experience as many street drugs while allowing them to maintain a negative drug screen. This entire classification of substances without exception is very dangerous and should not be used. There have been confirmed deaths from their use in other parts of the country and there have been several cases of users in the Jackson area being hospitalized. Most of the local incidents have involved respiratory difficulties with some cases of extended hallucinations, disorientation and memory loss. While all ages have reportedly purchased these products, they are targeted at teenagers and college aged adults. Parents are

encouraged to closely monitor all purchases made by their children and report any locations where these products are being accessed.

Anyone with additional information about these cases or any other drug activity can call the Jackson Madison County Metro Narcotics Unit at 731-424-6485 or CrimeStoppers at 731-424-8477.

Point of Contact:

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Shyam Baldev Patel