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PRESS RELEASE

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Staten Island Attorney Arrested and Charged with Weapons, Drug-Related Felonies Following Joint Operation between Richmond County DA's Office, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New York, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and NYPD

Investigators tracked several packages containing a large quantity of opioids from Germany to the home of the suspect

Staten Island, N.Y. — Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced a joint investigation between the DA's office (RCDA), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New York, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the NYPD, which resulted in the seizure of multiple firearms and a large quantity of opioids. Defendant Michael Don, an attorney on Staten Island, was arrested Wednesday during the execution of a search warrant at his home and has now been charged with multiple weapons and drug-related felonies including Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 1st Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Firearm, and related charges.

Working jointly, investigators tracked several packages containing a large quantity of opioids from Germany to the suspect's Staten Island home, where a search warrant was executed Wednesday resulting in the seizure of four packages containing approximately 1,000 pills of Tapentadol, a highly-addictive opioid. Investigators also recovered several firearms from the home, including a loaded .380 caliber firearm, an Ithaca .45 Caliber firearm, a .45 Caliber Colt firearm, a .223 Caliber AR15 rifle, and a 7.62 Caliber AK47 firearm.

The defendant was arraigned today in Criminal Court and a judge ordered bail set at \$50,000 cash/\$50,000 bond.

“This joint operation with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New York, the NYPD, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection resulted in a significant seizure of deadly firearms and a large

stash of opioids,” **said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.** “My office, led by our Narcotics-Investigations Bureau, will continue to work with our partner agencies to build strong cases in order to get drugs and guns off the street and keep our Staten Island communities safe.”

Peter C. Fitzhugh, special agent in charge of HSI New York said, “This investigation was initiated after the seizure of several packages from Germany containing Tapentadol, a highly addictive opioid, and ended at the home of Staten Island attorney Michael Don. During a search of the residence, additional opioids were discovered, as well as several firearms to include two assault rifles. HSI and our law enforcement partners will continue to work together to target transnational criminal organizations and to remove deadly opioids and firearms from our communities.”

“The smuggling of firearms and opioids presents a severe and long lasting impact on many communities and families. Postal Inspectors and their law enforcement partners will never tolerate this behavior and will bring those to justice who commit these criminal acts,” **said Inspector in Charge Philip R. Bartlett.**

See attachment for criminal complaint.

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