



News Release – Narcotics/Firearms Arrest

Summary:

In the early months of 2025, members of the West Hartford Police Department Community Support Unit (CSU) and the FBI Northern Connecticut Gang Task Force (NCGTF) initiated an illicit drug investigation into a town resident. During the course of the investigation, law enforcement personnel determined that this resident was distributing illegal narcotics (fentanyl and "crack" cocaine) from his residence.

Details:

On 3/27/2025 the search and seizure warrant was executed at the suspects residence, which resulted in the discovery of a significant amount of narcotics, items used to process and package narcotics and (6) firearms. Evidence located within the residence included:

- 14,371 wax sleeves of fentanyl.
- 385.10 grams of loose fentanyl.
- 209.6 grams of "crack" cocaine.
- 23.2 grams of powder cocaine.
- 60.6 grams of loose heroin.
- Approximately 120,000 empty/unused wax fentanyl sleeves.
- A large sum of US. Currency.





Pursuant to this investigation, Mathew Cruz, 35 y/o of West Hartford, CT was charged with the following:



- CT CGS 21a-279(a)(3 Possession of Narcotics Subsequent Offense (4 counts).
- CT CGS 21a-278(a1Ai*) Possession with Intent to Sell >1 ounce of Heroin.
- CT CGS 21a-278(b1A*+ Possession of Narcotics with Intent to Sell Subsequent Offense (3counts).
- CT CGS 21a-267(a) Use of Drug Paraphernalia.
- CT CGS 21a-277(c) Operation of a Drug Factory.
- CT CGS 53a-217 Criminal Possession of a Firearm (6 counts).
- CT CGS 29-36 Illegal Alteration of Firearm (serial number).
- CT CGS 53-21(a)(1) Risk of Injury/Impairing the Morals of a Child.

Cruz was unable to post his \$1,500,000.00 bond and was scheduled to appear today, 3/28/2025 at Hartford Superior Court.

If any member of the public has any information regarding this incident, or other similar incidents, please contact the West Hartford Police Department through the WHPD Tip Line/email at (860) 570-8969 / whpdtips@westhartfordct.gov.

Lt. Ryan Riley
rriley@westhartfordct.gov



West Hartford Police Department
103 Raymond Road
West Hartford, Connecticut 06107
Phone (860) 523-5203 Fax (860) 570-8964
www.westhartfordct.gov/police