Maricopa County Drug Suppression Task Force Takes Down Drug Trafficking Organization

On April 1st and 2nd, 2019, Maricopa County Sheriff’s Detectives, operating as part of the Maricopa County Drug Suppression Task Force (MCDST), conducted an operation to take down a domestic drug trafficking organization that was operating out of the Phoenix metropolitan area.

In October of 2018, Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office detectives began an investigation into a group known as “Just Grinding.” This organization advertised illegal drugs and distributed its products in Maricopa County as well shipping them to other U.S. states and foreign countries.

Detectives conducted hundreds of hours of physical surveillance and used investigative techniques to help crack this case.

Investigators determined that the members of this organization would head to Los Angeles each weekend to gather marijuana, narcotic cartridges (commonly used in E-cigarettes) and promethazine and transport them back via vehicle to an apartment in downtown Phoenix. Once that vehicle arrived, the drugs would be unloaded and picked up by other local distributors who would arrive at the location within the next few hours.

During the two-day takedown operation, a total of six residential search warrants were served, six vehicles were impounded, and six suspects booked into jail. Financial crimes investigators also served a seizure warrant on five bank accounts and one person to person money service account.

Materials seized included 95 Pounds of High Grade Marijuana (Approx Value $230,000) 190 pounds of Narcotic Cannabis (Approx Value $500,000), Vape Cartridges, THCA, Slabs, and Oils, Approximately $50,000 in cash, 2 Handguns, and 2 Rifles (one of which had been reported as stolen).

The suspects have been identified as: Oscar Bejar 4-24-92, Daniel Moreno 8-15-97 Marco Guerrero 6-23-93, Francisco Vergara Salgado 2-13-99, Daniel Gonzalez Savala 5-3-97, Andres Gerardo Cardova Jr Steven Villalobos 2-12-85 Andres Rojas Monge 8-6-97, Reymundo Herrera 4-9-95. All were booked or will be charged with a variety of felony drug-distribution related crimes.