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DARCEL D. CLARKDISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

198 EAST 161ST STREET BRONX, N.Y. 10451(718) 590-2234

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BRONX MEN INDICTED FOR SELLING FENTANYL; DEFENDANTS ALLEGEDLY PEDDLED THE DEADLY DRUG AS HEROIN

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that two Bronx men have been indicted for second-degree Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, second-degree Conspiracy and related charges for selling thousands of fentanyl doses to an undercover detective.

District Attorney Clark said, "The Bronx suffers a high rate of overdose deaths, most of them because of fentanyl, and these defendants allegedly sold \$10 glassines with pure fentanyl to people who thought they were buying heroin. Fortunately, some 5,000 glassines were intercepted before they could harm people."

District Attorney Clark said Edgardo Rivera, 49, and Francisco Edua-Robles, 38, both of 2055 Harrison Avenue, have been indicted on four counts of Criminal Sale of a controlled Substance, 13 counts of third-degree Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, 32 counts of various degrees of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, second-degree Conspiracy and fourth-degree Conspiracy. Rivera was arraigned on February 23, 2024, before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Kim Parker and is due back in court on March 4, 2024. Edua-Robles is awaiting arraignment.

According to the investigation, between May, 2023 and October, 2023, NYPD Bronx Narcotics made 15 controlled purchases of what was believed to be heroin from both defendants. Four of them were over 500 glassines of fentanyl on each occasion. On October 11, 2023, the defendants allegedly sold from inside of a vehicle parked on Harrison Avenue. They were subsequently arrested and approximately 1,000 glassines of fentanyl were recovered from the vehicle. In total, about 5,000 glassines of fentanyl were recovered throughout the course of the investigation, with a street value of \$50,000.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Alessandra Ambrosi and Assistant District Attorney Bridget Killen of the Special Investigations Bureau, under the supervision of Craig Cecchini, Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau, and under the overall supervision of Denise Kodjo, Deputy Chief of Investigations Division and Wanda Perez Maldonado, Chief of Investigations Division.



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District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Police Officer Christopher Riccio and members of Zone 2 from the Narcotics Borough Bronx for their work in the investigation.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.