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May 11, 2020

On May 5, 2020, the Ashtabula County Grand Jury indicted three persons who allegedly were involved in the drug overdose death of Brett A. Sasso in the City of Ashtabula on November 17, 2019.

**Jordan M. Peters** was indicted on the following eight counts:

1. Involuntary Manslaughter, a first degree felony
2. Involuntary Manslaughter, a first degree felony
3. Corrupting Another with Drugs, a second degree felony
4. Trafficking in a Fentanyl-Related Compound, a fifth degree felony
5. Trafficking in a Fentanyl-Related Compound, a fifth degree felony
6. Trafficking in a Fentanyl-Related Compound, a fifth degree felony
7. Trafficking in a Fentanyl-Related Compound, a fifth degree felony
8. Trafficking in a Fentanyl-Related Compound, a fifth degree felony

The Trafficking in a Fentanyl-Related Compound are a result of an independent investigation being conducted into Ms. Peters by CEAAC. It is alleged that between November and December of 2019, Ms. Peters was selling heroin and carfentanil in the City of Ashtabula. It is further alleged that one of the individuals she sold to was Brett Sasso. Mr. Sasso was found deceased in the early morning hours of November 17, 2019, by family members. Toxicology results evidence a lethal amount of carfentanil in Mr. Sasso's system at the time of his death, and the Ashtabula County Coroner ruled the cause of death as a carfentanil overdose.

In separate action, the Grand Jury also indicted two people who were allegedly involved in the overdose death of Eric Rivers in the City of Ashtabula on September 26, 2019.

**Dwayne Michael Turnquist** was indicted for the following four counts

1. Involuntary Manslaughter, a first degree felony
2. Involuntary Manslaughter, a first degree felony
3. Corrupting Another with Drugs, a second degree felony
4. Trafficking in a Fentanyl-Related Compound, a fifth degree felony

**David Edward Bradnan** was indicted for the following four counts

1. Involuntary Manslaughter, a first degree felony
2. Involuntary Manslaughter, a first degree felony
3. Corrupting Another with Drugs, a second degree felony
4. Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs, a third degree felony

The charges stem from the overdose death of Mr. Rivers the evening of September 26<sup>th</sup>. Toxicology results revealed that Mr. Rivers had a lethal amount of both methamphetamine and fentanyl in his blood stream. The Ashtabula County Coroner ruled that he died of the combined effects of methamphetamine and fentanyl. It is alleged that Mr. Turnquist and Mr. Bradnan each provided Mr. Rivers with one of the drugs that caused his death.

In each case, the most serious charge of Involuntary Manslaughter requires proof that the Defendants caused Mr. Sasso and Mr. River's deaths respectively, as a proximate result of their commission or attempted commission of a felony. The underlying felony or felonies that the Defendants are each alleged to have committed include *Corrupting Another with Drugs*, which requires proof the Defendants furnished the drugs to their victim which caused serious physical harm; and/or *Trafficking in a Fentanyl-Related Compound, or Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs* which require proof that the Defendants sold or offered to sell to their victims the drugs that caused their deaths.

Substantial evidence was gathered in each of these cases by the Crime Enforcement Agency of Ashtabula County (CEAAC) and the Ashtabula Police Department that led to these indictments.

Sadly, Ashtabula County continues to experience both fatal and non-fatal overdoses. Law enforcement and the prosecuting agencies in Ashtabula County are dedicated to stopping these deaths. We continue to collectively undertake aggressive efforts to hold criminally responsible those who in any way supply drugs that result in an overdose death of a person. As in this case, manslaughter and other serious felony charges will be filed and pursued. By undertaking these uncompromising actions, my office is committed to attempting to reduce and hopefully eliminate the number of drug overdose deaths presently occurring in our county.

Very truly yours,

*Cecilia M. Cooper*

CECILIA M. COOPER  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY