



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Friday, September 29, 2017

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Operation Heat Seeker: Joint Agency Initiative

Operation Heat Seeker began in May with an aim to identify and arrest violent felons within the community that were dealing drugs and guns. Sheriff Rick Staly held a press conference Friday morning with members of ATF, FDLE, Northeast Florida HIDTA, the Bunnell Police Department, the US Attorney's Office and the 7th Circuit State Attorney's Office regarding the outcome of the operation.

During the operation, federal and state search warrants were served at three Flagler County locations. Operation Heat Seeker took seven firearms ranging from a stolen AR-15 rifle and a shotgun to revolvers and semi-automatic pistols off the streets of Flagler County and out of the hands of convicted felons and drug dealers. Marijuana, ecstasy pills, over two ounces of crack and powder cocaine was also seized.



From left: Chief Tom Foster, FDLE Josh Mead, Sheriff Rick Staly, ATF John Wester, AUSA Frank Talbot, SAO RJ Larizza

Ten felons with criminal histories dating back 35 years and totaling 342 previous charges and 92

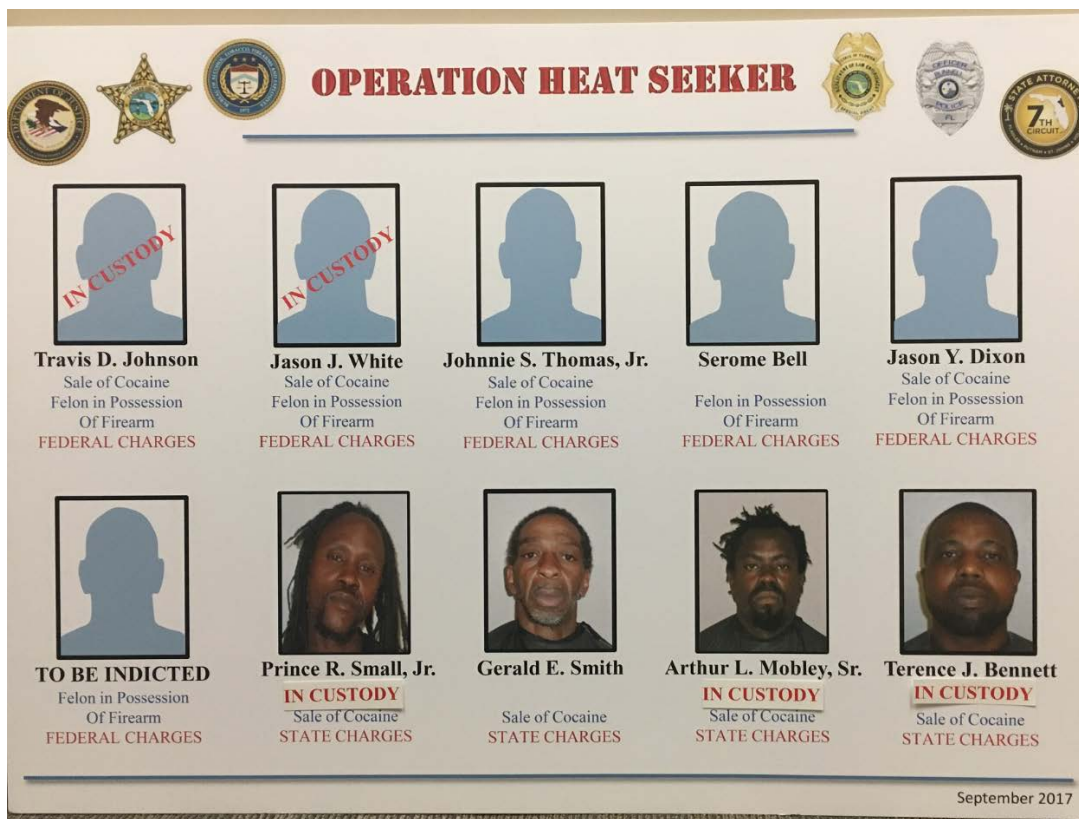
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previous convictions ranging from burglary, to resisting arrest, to homicide are now – or will soon be – in jail and off the streets of Flagler County.

“This has been a team effort and I thank all of our law enforcement partners. I have said since day one that where there are drugs, there are guns. We are actively looking for four people that are now fugitives,” Sheriff Staly said. “I suggest they turn themselves in because we will find them. If they run, they will just go to jail tired.”



Operation Heat Seeker: Arrests and Fugitives

Prince R. Small Jr., Arthur L. Mobley Sr., and Terence J. Bennett have been arrested on state charges for sale of cocaine. Travis D. Johnson and Jason J. White have been arrested on federal charges for sale of cocaine and/or possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The following fugitives have active warrants for arrest: Johnnie D. Thomas Jr., Serome Bell, Jason Y. Dixon, and Gerald E. Smith. One additional suspect is awaiting federal indictment for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

If you have any information on the locations of these violent felons, call CrimeStoppers at 1-888-277-TIPS (8477). You could be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000.00.

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