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County of
Warren

PRESS RELEASE

CHARGED:

Jessica Russo
7C Main Street
Blairstown, New Jersey 07825
DOB: October 29, 1987

Korey Ball
7C Main Street
Blairstown, New Jersey 07825
DOB: June 9, 1985

On September 11, 2017, the Blairstown Police Department responded to an emergency call for a suspected drug overdose. Upon arrival, law enforcement officers administered Narcan to an adult male who was then transported to the hospital. Through a joint investigation between the Warren County Prosecutor's Office—Narcotics Task Force and the Blairstown Police Department, it was discovered the male victim had been experiencing symptoms of drug overdose earlier in the night for approximately three hours in the presence of Jessica Russo and Korey Ball. Neither Russo nor Ball sought treatment for the victim which possibly resulted in further medical distress.

On September 15, 2017, the above listed law enforcement agencies executed a search warrant at the residence where the overdose occurred. Heroin, Xanax, and drug paraphernalia for seized. The following people were charged as a result of the investigation:

Jessica Russo is charged with:

1. One (1) count of endangering the welfare of an injured victim, a third degree offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1.2a, and
2. One (1) count of possession of a controlled dangerous substance, to wit Heroin, a third degree offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1).

Korey Ball is charged with:

1. One (1) count of endangering the welfare of an injured victim, a third degree offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1.2a, and

2. Two (2) counts of possession of a controlled dangerous substance, to wit Heroin and Xanax, a third degree offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1).

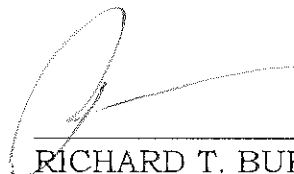
Each third degree offenses carries a maximum term of imprisonment of five years and/or a fine of \$15,000 for the endangering charge and \$35,000 for the possession of a controlled dangerous substance charge.

Please be advised that all defendants are presumed innocent of all charges unless and until proven guilty.

Pursuant to the New Jersey Overdose Prevention Act, Ball and Russo would not have been charged with any crime if they had called 911 and sought medical treatment for the victim when he first began exhibiting symptoms of overdose.

If anyone reading this article is addicted to opiates and/or struggles with addiction or who has a loved one who struggles with addiction, please let them know about the Overdose Prevention Act. The law of the State of New Jersey recognizes preserving human life is paramount.

Approved by:



RICHARD T. BURKE
Prosecutor Warren County

Dated: September 18, 2017