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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 20, 2025

ARRESTED: GABRIEL MARTINEZ
PHILLIPSBURG, NEW JERSEY
AGE: 28

On Tuesday, February 18, 2025, following a several month long investigation into the distribution of narcotics in the town of Phillipsburg, the Phillipsburg Police Department and the New Jersey State Police executed a search warrant at 166 Mercer Street. As a result of the search warrant, law enforcement recovered narcotics and weapons.

Gabriel Martinez was arrested and charged with the following crimes:

- 1) Two counts, Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(13), a crime of the third degree.
- 2) Possession of a firearm while in the course of committing, attempting to commit, or conspiring to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a controlled dangerous substance, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4.1a, a crime of the second degree.
- 3) Possession of a defaced firearm, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3d, a crime of the fourth degree.
- 4) Possession of hollow Nose bullets, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3f(1), a crime of the fourth degree.
- 5) Possession of large capacity magazines, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3j, a crime of the fourth degree.

- 6) Receiving Stolen Property, specifically by possessing a stolen firearm, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-7a, a crime of the third degree.
- 7) Two counts, Unlawful Possession of an Assault Firearm, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5f, a crime of the second degree.
- 8) Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, specifically a handgun, without first obtaining a permit, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5b(1), a crime of the second degree.

Second degree crimes carry a maximum sentence of 10 years in New Jersey State Prison, third degree crimes carry a maximum sentence of 5 years in New Jersey State Prison, and fourth degree crimes carry a maximum sentence of 18 months in New Jersey State Prison.

The charges are merely accusations. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The investigation was conducted by the Phillipsburg Police Department and the New Jersey State Police.