

# Media Release

Friday, April 17, 2015

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sheriff Frank X. Balles  
609-909-7211 or 609-432-9407

### Spring Cleaning in Atlantic County Nets 104, Drugs & Weapons

**[Atlantic County]** – A three day arrest sweep of fugitives, criminals, and other wanted individuals was conducted by the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office and the Atlantic City Police Department last week. The sweep, "Operation Spring Fracture," took place on April 7-9, 2015 and focused on those living in Atlantic City and the surrounding communities.

Significant arrests made during the three day sweep include:

**Evelyn Gonzales, also known as Evelyn Colon 49, has been wanted since 1994 on a warrant for robbery. She was tracked down in Atlantic City by USMSNY/NJRFTF member and Atlantic County Sheriff's Office Detective Douglas Herbert. She was arrested without incident by Sheriff's Detective Gregory Engstler and Prosecutor's Detectives C. Southard and A. Simmor.**

**Taj Malik Harris 21, of Pleasantville was arrested in Pleasantville for possession of a 9 millimeter semi-automatic handgun, possession of a defaced firearm, and possession of a high capacity magazine by Sheriff's Detectives William Brennan and Dustin Widas and Pleasantville Police Officer Gerard Tell.**

Ruben Barbosa 49, of Atlantic City was arrested for possession of 20 bags of heroin by Atlantic City Police Detectives Beardis and Marsini and Atlantic County Sheriff's Detective Mathew Poupard.

Elements of the Atlantic City Task Force, the United States Marshal Service NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force, New Jersey State Parole, the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Pleasantville Police Department teamed with the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office and Atlantic City Police Department during the three day street arrest operation.

Fifty-eight people were arrested during the three day sweep that ended last Thursday. The Atlantic County Sheriff's Office, Atlantic City Police, New Jersey State Police, Pleasantville Police, Egg Harbor Township Police, Galloway Township Police, Brigantine Police, Ventnor Police, Margate Police, Buena Police, Atlantic County Department of Public Safety, Ocean City Police, Bridgeton Police arrested a combined 46 additional fugitives targeted for Operation Spring Fracture in the weeks leading up to the three day sweep.

"The collaboration of these dedicated law enforcement agencies to bring these fugitives into custody without incident demonstrates the high level of professionalism in the law enforcement community in this county," Atlantic County Sheriff Frank X. Balles commented.

The three day sweep also accounted for the clearance of an additional 59 municipal warrants including warrants issued by the municipal courts of Absecon, Atlantic City, Camden, Egg Harbor City, Egg Harbor Township, Ewing Township, Galloway Township, Hamilton Township, Monroe Township, Mullica Township, Northfield, Somers Point, Trenton, Pine Hill, and Ventnor.

Anyone with a tip on wanted individuals can anonymously contact the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office at (609) 909-7200 or online at [www.acsheriff.org](http://www.acsheriff.org) or Crime Stoppers of Atlantic County at 1-800-658-8477 or [www.crimestoppersatlantic.com](http://www.crimestoppersatlantic.com).

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