

NEWS RELEASE

April 8, 2011

Sheriff receives HIDTA Funding

The Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office has received Grant funding from the Ohio HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Domestic Highway Enforcement Program (DHE). The initial funding awarded to the Office is \$12, 250.00 and has been allocated for the purposes of purchasing equipment and paying for overtime hours to more aggressively attack drug trafficking and other criminal behavior taking place on the Highways.

The vast majority of this money will be used to pay Deputies to target drugs on Tuscarawas County roadways. Drug users and traffickers are directly responsible for the increasing numbers in other types of crime including thefts, burglaries and robberies. The amounts of crime committed by those trying to raise money to support their drug habits are staggering. Interstate 77 and other State and US routes running through Tuscarawas County are proven routes of travel for both smaller and large level drug couriers.

"It is our goal to combine intelligence with manpower to get some of these individuals off the streets and prosecuted" says Sheriff Walt Wilson. According to Wilson, in recent years, Tuscarawas County has seen a consistent increase in the use of Heroin and the illegal use of prescription drugs as well as the constant presence of marijuana and cocaine. These drugs have brought with them criminals from Detroit, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and other areas who have found it profitable to bring drugs to Tuscarawas County.

Captain Campbell, the area's DHE Team Leader pursued this funding from HIDTA and it will be used to intercept drugs on the street by increased manpower and coordinated efforts between Narcotics investigators and other Police agencies within the County, sharing vital information so that the uniformed officers are informed as to what and who to look for. K-9 Deputies will be utilized and training for those Deputies participating will also be increased.

As always, The Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office welcomes information from residents about drug dealers and other criminals and callers may remain anonymous. Captain Campbell and Narcotics Detectives can be reached by calling the Sheriff's Office at 330-339-2000.

Contacts: **Sheriff Walt Wilson**
 Captain Orvis L. Campbell