

THE L.E.A.D. TASK FORCE

of TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, OHIO

PHONE (330) 339-7713

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Date: 6/18/2012

Time: 1200

Suspected Meth Labs Found in Port Washington

Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a call Sunday evening at 105 S. St. Clairsville Street in Port Washington after a woman reported her husband was at the apartment in violation of a Temporary Protection Order and that he had just left the residence.

Upon Arrival K-9 Deputy Jimmy Martin was advised by the caller that her estranged husband had been at the residence off and on over the past couple of weeks although he has been living in Akron. She also stated she found some items that made her believe he may be involved with making Crystal Meth and that he was acting as though he may be intoxicated on drugs when she returned home from work resulting in her telling him to leave the residence. She further stated that upon his departure he took her dog and she contacted the Sheriff's Office.

The woman showed Deputy Martin a location outside the residence where a suspected Meth Lab was located. She also turned over some suspected drug paraphernalia she said was found by her inside the apartment. Deputy Martin then contacted Detective Scott Ballentine who responded to the scene with a second suspected Meth lab being found inside a laundry room at the apartment building. Holmes County Sheriff's Narcotics and Multi- Jurisdictional L.E.A.D. Detective Joe Mullett was contacted by Ballentine due to his training of handling items used for Meth manufacturing . Det. Mullett and Holmes County Deputy Tim Stryker responded to the scene to contain the suspected labs making them safe for a cleanup crew to handle. Both suspected labs were successfully contained by deputies and removed by an environmental chemical cleanup crew.

Prior to charges being filed samples of the substance collected from the suspected labs will be sent to the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation Laboratory in Richfield Ohio for analysis and confirmation that Crystal Meth was actually being manufactured.

Det. Scott Ballentine

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST DRUGS