



PRESS RELEASE

Baltimore County Man Sentenced to 40 Years in Jail for Large Scale Cocaine Trafficking *Attorney General's Multi-Jurisdictional Organized Crime Task Force Led Prosecution*

BALTIMORE, MD (July 28, 2017) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh and Carroll County State's Attorney Brian DeLeonardo announced today that the Honorable Kevin Mahoney of the Circuit Court for Harford County sentenced Shani McDonald, 33, to 40 years in jail for possessing with the intent to distribute a large quantity of cocaine, and five concurrent years in jail under the "volume dealer" statute, as the amount of cocaine was greater than 448 grams, specifically 1036.4 grams.

"We are gratified that our partnership with State's Attorney DeLeonardo and his office will make Marylanders safer and will send a strong message to drug traffickers," said Attorney General Frosh. "Our office will continue to work with law enforcement agencies across the state to prosecute those who threaten the safety of our communities with violence, drug trafficking and unlawful gang activity."

"I was very pleased for my office to be part of the cooperative effort to target this high level drug dealer who posed a major threat to public safety across several counties of Maryland including Carroll County," said Carroll County State's Attorney Brian DeLeonardo.

McDonald was indicted in late 2016 for his role as a high-level drug dealer in Maryland. The investigation revealed that McDonald organized, promoted and participated in a multi-jurisdictional drug trafficking criminal enterprise, traveling from Maryland to New York to obtain both heroin and cocaine to distribute in jurisdictions throughout Maryland, including Carroll County and Baltimore County. In September 2016, after traveling to New York to pick up over a kilogram of cocaine, McDonald was pulled over in Harford County by Maryland State Police. Subsequent search warrants at multiple residences including McDonald's stash houses recovered packaging materials, almost 600 grams of heroin, over \$10,000 in cash, and two handguns.

This case was prosecuted by members of Attorney General Frosh's Organized Crime Task Force and included Assistant Attorney General Melissa Hoppmeyer and Deputy State's Attorney for Carroll County Edward Coyne, who as co-chair of the Organized Crime Task Force, was assigned as a Special Assistant Attorney General. The case resulted from an investigation by the Carroll County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) initiative which includes the

Maryland State Police, Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Westminster Police, and Homeland Security Investigations.

“The outstanding investigative work by a combined law enforcement team and the effective assistance and prosecution provided by the Carroll County State's Attorney's Office and the Maryland Attorney General's Office resulted in the conviction of an individual involved in the importation of both heroin and cocaine into our state,” said Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel William Pallozzi. “Maryland State Police criminal investigators will continue to focus on cross-border and inter-jurisdictional criminal enterprises like this one, especially when heroin and other dangerous drugs are involved.”

McDonald's record includes previous convictions for felony narcotics as well as for first-degree assault. He was on probation for a felony heroin conviction when he was arrested.

In making today's announcement, Attorney General Frosh and State's Attorney DeLeonardo thanked the Carroll County HIDTA investigators, the Maryland State Police, the Baltimore County Police Department, the Carroll County State's Attorney's Office, the Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office, the Harford County State's Attorney's Office, Organized Crime Chief Katie Dorian, Assistant Attorney General Melissa E. Hoppmeyer, and Deputy State's Attorney for Carroll County Edward “Ned” Coyne.