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N e w s R e l e a s e

September 18, 2014

Suspects Arrested for Selling Liquid Synthetic Cannabinoids at Local Store

TAI TAN NGUYEN (A/M; 06/01/1977) Business Manager

2684 JUPITER ST
HARVEY, LA 70058

CHGS: DISTRIBUTION OF A SCH I CDS, POSS. WITD A SCH I CDS,
DISTRIBUTION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, POSS. WITD DRUG PARAPHERNALIA
USE OF FIREARM IN PRES OF CDS

HOA T. NGUYEN (A/M; 11/18/1971) Business Owner

2129 TITAN ST
HAVEY, LA 70058

CHGS: DISTRIBUTION OF SCH I CDS, POSS. WITD A SCH I CDS
POSS. WITD DRUG PARAPHERNALI, USE OF FIREARM IN PRES OF CDS

In July of 2014, investigators assigned to the Special Investigations Division received information from a concerned citizen in reference to the Triangle Food Store located in Luling selling liquid synthetic cannabinoids. According to the concerned citizen, the liquid chemical was being sold in conjunction with a vaporizer, or electronic cigarette, which is commonly used to ingest liquid nicotine.

During the investigation, an undercover detective assigned to the Special Investigations Division purchased a sample of the liquid substance on three separate occasions. The liquid substance named "Strawberry Spade Oil" was inside a small plastic bottle and was purchased for \$35.00 per bottle. During the three undercover purchases, the undercover officer purchased the drug from both Tai and Hoa Nguyen. Samples were sent to the Louisiana State Police drug lab for chemical analysis and found to contain a synthetic chemical that was placed on the list of Schedule I controlled dangerous substances in March of this year. Based on the undercover purchases of the liquid synthetic cannabinoid, investigators obtained a search warrant for the business. Upon searching the business, investigators located a total of 23 bottles of the liquid synthetic cannabinoid. Both store employees were charged with distribution of a Schedule I controlled dangerous substance and other criminal charges.

Prior to this investigation, investigators assigned to the Special Investigations Division of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office haven't seen new form of synthetic cannabinoid in St. Charles Parish. This liquid synthetic cannabinoid is being marketed to use in conjunction with electronic cigarettes and are a threat to our kids. This chemical can cause hallucinations, seizures, and even psychosis. This new liquid form of ingesting synthetic cannabinoids can be a lot more potent because if too much of the liquid is in the pen one will get a significant dose from the vapors. Another concern for parents is that kids may be able to do it undetected by using the vaporizer pen.