

News Release

METRICH Enforcement Unit
30 North Diamond Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44902

Chief Kenneth A Coontz
Project Director



For Immediate Release

No # 5

Date: June 1, 2018

Contact: Lt. Joseph D. Petrycki
(419) 755-9728 Fax: (419) 522-7546

Subject: Arrest Warrants Served

RICHLAND COUNTY, OH: On May 31, 2018 the METRICH Enforcement Unit closed out a short term drug trafficking investigation with the arrest of an individual from Detroit, Michigan who was staying at 155 E. First St. Mansfield, OH.

METRICH detectives, with assistance from the Richland County Sheriff's Office, arrested and charged Ronell Batchelor with four (4) counts of Trafficking in Drugs-F4, two (2) counts of Possession of Drugs-F5 and one (1) count of Illegal Conveyance-F3. During the investigation, after analysis of the seized evidence, the Mansfield Division of Police, Forensic Science Section notified METRICH detectives the suspected heroin was actually fentanyl.

METRICH Commander Lt. Joseph D. Petrycki stated preliminary 2017 data from the Ohio Department of Health indicates that seventy-one percent (71%) of all unintentional drug overdose deaths in the State of Ohio involved illicit fentanyl or a fentanyl analogue. Due to the fact the lab testing showed it was fentanyl, METRICH detectives made it a top priority to get him incarcerated as soon as possible.

The METRICH Enforcement Unit will continue to target those individuals that sell drugs, especially fentanyl in Richland County. Citizens are encouraged to continue to be proactive by reporting suspected drug activity. Citizens can call the METRICH Crime Tip Hotline at 419-52-Crime (419-522-7463) or the Task Force line at 419-755-9728.

METRICH is a ten county decentralized task force in North Central Ohio whose mission is to improve the quality of life for the citizens we serve by reducing the availability of illegal drugs and weapons through proactive enforcement efforts. The success of METRICH is a tribute to the cooperation and support within the Law Enforcement Community in the METRICH region and to those citizens who have chosen to improve the quality of life in their communities by assisting METRICH in reporting suspicious activity and valuable information.

**Citizens may report suspicious activity to the crime hot lines at:
419-522-7463 and www.METRICH.com**





Ronell Batchelor
DOB: 07/15/1985
155 E. First St.

Charges: Trafficking in Drugs F4-4 Counts
Possession of Drugs F5-2 Counts
Illegal Conveyance-Detention Facility F3

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