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**WEDGE**

WEST SUBURBAN ENHANCED DRUG/GANG ENFORCEMENT

C/O: Riverside Police Department, 31 Riverside Rd., Riverside, IL 60546

## Press Release

February 15, 2015

Chief Thomas Weitzel, Chairperson

Riverside PD

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### **RIVERSIDE POLICE AND WEDGE SHUT DOWN DRUG OPERATION**

#### *POLICE EXECUTE SEARCH WARRANT AT KNOWN DRUG LOCATION*

On Friday, February 13th, at 6 AM, the Riverside Police Department and the West Suburban Enhanced Drug and Gang Enforcement Task Force (WEDGE) executed a narcotics search warrant at 1181 South Euclid Avenue in Oak Park. Pursuant to the warrant service, investigators recovered:

- Cannabis
- Cocaine
- Methamphetamine
- Drug paraphernalia and tools for processing, preparing, and cutting narcotics for resale

The **target** of the investigation, the resident of the home named in the search warrant, **Edward P. Creedon**, was present at the time of the warrant service and arrested.

The warrant was based on a WEDGE narcotics investigation that began in Riverside in early January of 2015, culminating in the arrest of three individuals residing at the home. Both subjects arrested were renting the property. The property owner was informed of the search warrant after the arrests were made. Charges in this search warrant arrest were:

#### **Edward P. Creedon 32 of the 1100 block of South Euclid in Oak Park**

1. Possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine (Class X felony)
2. Possession with intent to deliver cocaine (Class 1 felony)
3. Possession of a controlled substance, Methamphetamine (Class 1 felony)
4. Possession of a controlled substance, cocaine (Class 4 felony)
5. Possession of drug paraphernalia (Misdemeanor)
6. Unlawful use of weapon ,two sets of mental knuckles(misdemeanor)

**Matthew A. Cooley, 35 of the 3000 block of West Lyndale Street in Chicago**

1. Possession of a controlled substance, cocaine (Class 4 felony)

**Danielle A. Dipego, 30 of the 700 block of North Linden in Oak Park**

1. Possession of drug paraphernalia (Misdemeanor)

Matthew Cooley and Danielle Dipego had been illegally renting from Edward Creedon for the past several months. Creedon was the lease holder and he in turn illegally sublet “space” in the home to Cooley and Dipego to support his drug operations at the Euclid address. Creedon would sublet to others for additional cash but these subjects were not arrested in this investigation. However, one additional renter was present at the home when the warrant was executed. That subject a male, 33 of the 100 block of North Euclid in Oak Park was not charged.

No methamphetamine was being “cooked” or produced at the Euclid address. Mr. Creedon was purchasing the methamphetamine from a source outside of Oak Park. He was only consuming and selling at this address. The investigation continues on the source of the methamphetamine production.

WEDGE was supported in the execution of the search warrant by the Forest Park Special Operations Group (SOG) and the Forest Park K-9 officer and his dog.

Riverside Police Chief and WEDGE Chairperson Thomas Weitzel stated, *“This is a significant arrest as the offenders arrested were selling cannabis, cocaine, and meth to other residents of the west suburban area including Riverside. Police observed numerous drug transactions in which the “customer” would drive to the home and purchase narcotics at the front door or by going inside the home and then quickly leave after the purchase.”*

Chief Weitzel went to say, *“The Oak Park Police Department played a vital role in this investigation and arrest. Oak Park tactical officers and uniform patrol division personnel were on the scene and assisted in executing the search warrant. Oak Park is a member agency of the WEDGE Task Force.”*

Oak Park Police Chief Rick Tanksley stated, *“In partnership with the community, we will create and maintain neighborhoods capable of sustaining civic life. We are committed to reducing the levels of crime, fear, and disorder through community-based, problem-oriented, and data-driven policing. The WEDGE Task Force assists us with this mission.”*

The WEDGE Gang and Drug Task Force will continue to pursue drug offenders as part of an ongoing suppression of gang and drug activity in the western suburbs.

**WEDGE:**

*In October of 2006, the chiefs of these agencies met for a common purpose, forged a viable intergovernmental agreement that each municipalities’ governing body ratified, and formed a regional task force dedicated to attacking the problem of gang activity. Their first full operational year was 2008; this group of officers and supervisors, working 3-6 task force days a month, has made a significant impact on local street gang and drug activity.*

*The public is reminded that a signed complaint is not evidence of guilt and that all defendants in a criminal case are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.*