



## OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

### PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **STATE ATTORNEY DAVE ARONBERG'S SOBER HOMES TASK FORCE ACHIEVES 100<sup>TH</sup> ARREST**

State Attorney Dave Aronberg announced today that the Sober Homes Task Force, working with the Delray Beach Police Department, have reached a milestone of 100 arrests after two individuals were arrested and booked yesterday into the Palm Beach County Jail on 23 felony counts of patient brokering and one felony count of conspiracy to commit patient brokering. The arrests are the culmination of a year-long investigation into illegal kickbacks between out of state laboratories and patient brokers operating in Palm Beach County.

The defendants are Alan Miller (23 counts patient brokering and 1 count conspiracy) and Elliott Vernon (1 count of conspiracy), both executives of Abira Medical Laboratories d/b/a Genesis Diagnostics, located in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. Between 2016 and 2017, Genesis Diagnostics paid well over \$3 million in illegal kickbacks to brokers from the testing of urine samples that were collected from recovering addicts living in sober homes throughout Palm Beach County.

“Since its first arrest in October 2016, our Sober Homes Task Force has targeted the patient brokering and insurance fraud in the drug treatment and sober home industries that helped fuel the opioid epidemic and a surge in overdose deaths,” said State Attorney Aronberg. Noting the 40% decrease in opioid overdose deaths in Palm Beach County in 2018, Aronberg stated that “the Task Force’s crackdown on corrupt rehab centers and rogue sober homes have helped clean up the industry in Palm Beach County.”

Also assisting in the operation were Task Force investigators from the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, the Department of Insurance Fraud, and police departments in West Palm Beach, Boynton Beach, Boca Raton.

The investigation into this case is ongoing and additional arrests are anticipated.

“We have made substantial progress in the ongoing effort to save lives from this unprecedented epidemic, and we realize that there is more work to do,” said State Attorney Aronberg.