



OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE ATTORNEY DAVE ARONBERG AND SOBER HOMES TASK FORCE ANNOUNCE ARRESTS IN NEW PATIENT BROKERING AND INSURANCE FRAUD SCHEME

State Attorney Dave Aronberg announced today that the Sober Homes Task Force, in conjunction with the West Palm Beach Police Department and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, have arrested two individuals for the felonies of patient brokering and insurance fraud. The arrests are the culmination of a joint two-month undercover operation that revealed a new type of scheme: pharmacy kickbacks to drug treatment facilities in exchange for high-priced ancillary prescriptions.

"As the Palm Beach County Sober Homes Task Force continues its success in combating fraud in the area of unnecessary and excessive drug testing, new frauds emerge," said State Attorney Aronberg. "The Task Force is determined to attack new schemes involving pharmacies, and to continue to adapt and fight evolving abuses in the drug treatment industry."

Todd Mulvaney and Richard Vallette were both arrested and booked into the Palm Beach County jail for 6 counts of patient brokering, 6 counts of insurance

fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit patient brokering and insurance fraud, and one count of insurance fraud by oral agreement not to pay required co-payments.

Also assisting in the operation were Task Force investigators from police departments in Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, North Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens and Boca Raton, along with Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis' Division of Investigative and Forensic Services.

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

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