

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Spice Arrest in Downtown Area**

On December 6, 2017, detectives from the Narcotics Unit conducted an operation at the Lotto King, 1069 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, in the Downtown community. It resulted in the arrest of the clerk for possessing and selling Spice and Kratom, both of which are banned synthetic drugs. After receiving information regarding the sale of Spice in the Downtown area, the SDPD Narcotics Unit began an investigation to determine the source(s). Over the course of the investigation, narcotics detectives gathered information that led to the operation yesterday. Arrested was store clerk Artis Williams, 47, who was in possession of approximately 1/2 pound of Spice, 2300 Kratom Pills, over 2 pounds of Kratom powder, and Marijuana. In addition, over 300 Oxycodone and Morphine pills were seized along with \$21,000 in cash. Williams was booked into jail and this case will be forwarded to the San Diego City Attorney's Office for prosecution under the City of San Diego's synthetic drug ordinance. The owner was not present but could face similar and additional charges. The synthetic drug ordinance was enacted in June of 2016 in response to a high number of synthetic drug related overdoses.

The Police Department and City Attorney's Office will continue to collaborate and vigorously enforce and prosecute provisions in San Diego's synthetic drug ordinance. Anyone with information in regards to the sale of Spice or any banned synthetic drug is urged to call the Narcotics Unit (619-531-2468) to report it. The safety of the public is jeopardized when synthetic substances are sold and distributed to potential consumers. Violations of San Diego's synthetic drug ordinance will not be tolerated. Those who violate this law face criminal and civil penalties up to and including 6 months in jail, \$1,000 fine, and 3 years' probation.

The below photographs depict some of the evidence recovered during the operation.



*Spice packets*



*Kratom Pills*



*Kratom powder*