

Detectives Continue With Aggressive Initiative To Stop The Illegal Flow Of Prescription Drugs In The Community; Two Day Operation Yields 27 Arrests

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Who: Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Investigative Operations Bureau
Countywide Diversion Task Force
Patrol Operations Bureau
Special Operations Division

What: Detectives and deputies continue with an aggressive initiative to stop the illegal flow of prescription drugs in the community. A two day operation this week resulted in 27 arrests. Sheriff Bob Gualtieri plans to continue with the aggressive effort until this problem, which plagues our community is brought under control.

Where: Target areas throughout Pinellas County.

When: The operation ran Tuesday, November 15, 2011 thru Wednesday, November 16, 2011.

How/Why: The aggressive response by Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri came after receiving complaints from the community of on-going suspicious and criminal activity occurring at pharmacies and doctor's offices throughout the county.

The Countywide Diversion Task Force, along with the Patrol Operations Bureau, conducted overt operations to identify individuals and organizations involved in criminal activity. This initiative took place November 15th and 16th countywide.

Using surveillance, deputies and Narcotics K-9 Teams made contact with individuals leaving suspected pill mills. Based on information obtained during those encounters, detectives were able to develop probable cause to make a total of 27 arrests.

Summary of Two Day Results:

27: Arrested

30: Field Interviews

24: Citations