



NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

March 27, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: 6 Arrested on Charges Stemming from Brett Griffin Death Investigation

Brett Griffin, 18 years of age, died November 8, 2008 at 28 Annabelle Street, Newark, while attending a party sponsored by Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. Mr. Griffin was a pledge of the fraternity. The Newark Police Department announces the arrest of the following six individuals. All are members or pledges of the fraternity. The information leading to these charges was developed during the investigation of Mr. Griffin's death. The charges do not imply direct culpability in Mr. Griffin's death.

Michael J. Bassett, June 11, 1988, 20 years of age, 200 S. Middle Neck Rd, Great Neck, NY Charged on March 20, 2009 with: Providing Alcohol to a Minor, Conspiracy 3rd Degree, Criminal Solicitation 3rd Degree, Possession with Intent to Deliver Marijuana, Maintaining a Dwelling for Drugs, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

The investigation revealed that Michael Bassett and Travis Fiume were the Social Chairs for the fraternity. Prior to the party, Michael Bassett and Travis Fiume collected money from fraternity members. Michael Bassett gave the money he collected to Travis Fiume, who in turn went with an unidentified person over 21 years of age to purchase alcohol. The alcohol was then brought back to the house, where it was consumed by party guests, some of whom were under 21 years of age.

During a search warrant executed at the residence on November 8, 2008, illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia were found in a locked drawer belonging to Michael Bassett. Seized were 120 grams of marijuana, cash, a scale, smoking paraphernalia, plastic baggies, and a list of people who appeared to owe money to Bassett.

After an initial appearance, Bassett was released on \$5,100 unsecured bond.

Travis Fiume, June 8, 1988, 20 years of age, 73 Wainwright Ave, Closter, NJ Charged March 19, 2009 with: Providing Alcohol to a Minor, Conspiracy 3rd Degree, and Criminal Solicitation 3rd Degree. These charges are explained above, under co-defendant Bassett.

After an initial appearance, Fiume was released on \$3,000 unsecured bond.

**Justin Seeney, April 18, 1988, 20 years of age, 2 Canfield Ave, White Plains, NY
Charged March 19, 2009 with: Underage Possession of Alcohol and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.**

During the search warrant of November 8, a “bud grinder” and a bottle of opened Jack Daniels Whiskey was found in the bedroom of Justin Seeney. A bud grinder is a piece of drug paraphernalia used to process marijuana before it is smoked.

After an initial appearance, Seeney was released on \$2,000 unsecured bond.

**Michael J. Ciccarelli, February 13, 1989, 20 years of age, 2551 Acorn Pl, N. Bellmore, NY
Charged March 19, 2009 with Underage Possession of Alcohol.**

During the search warrant of November 8, beer was found in the bedroom of Michael Ciccarelli.

After an initial appearance, Ciccarelli was released on \$100 unsecured bond.

**Joseph Ciarletta, March 9, 1990, 19 years of age, 4 Bay St, Bronx, NY
Charged March 19, 2009 with Underage Consumption of Alcohol.**

Joseph Ciarletta was present at 28 Annabelle Street at the time of the execution of the November 8 search warrant. When interviewed by a police officer, Ciarletta exhibited signs that he had consumed alcohol, including the odor of alcoholic beverage, slurred speech, and bloodshot eyes.

After an initial appearance, Ciarletta was released on \$100 unsecured bond

**Henry Vieluf, November 30, 1989, 19 years of age, 12 Sgt. Parker Rd, Blauvelt, NY
Charged March 19, 2009 with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.**

During the search warrant of November 8, a bud grinder and a hollow metallic cigarette were found in the bedroom of Henry Vieluf.

After an initial appearance, Vieluf was released on \$1,000 unsecured bond.

The Newark Police Department remains interested in information pertaining to Mr. Griffin’s death that has not yet been provided to the investigator. Persons wishing to supply information pertinent to this investigation should contact Cpl. Andrew Rubin at 302-366-7110 ext 457 or Andrew.Rubin@cj.state.de.us.

The Newark Police Department affirms that all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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