

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday November 2, 2017

CONTACT:

Lt. Matt Novak at (619) 531-2784 or mnovak@pd.sandiego.gov

Spice Arrest in Hillcrest Area

On October 31, 2017, detectives from the Narcotics Unit conducted an operation at the Godfather Smoke Shop, 3511 5th Avenue, in the Hillcrest community that 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 Hillcrest 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 Loay Lawrence, 55, who was in possession of approximately 1/3 pound of Spice, 375 Kratom Pills, and \$4,995 in cash. Lawrence 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 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.

