



LARRY G. ZWIEG
DIRECTOR

METROPOLITAN BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WWW.MBI-POLICE.NET
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MEDIA RELEASE

Telephone: (407) 836-9701
Facsimile: (407) 836-9743
Email: MBIOrlando@ocfl.net

Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI)
Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)
Florida Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution

Operation True Grit

**Central Florida Drug Trafficking Organization
Members Arrested for Racketeering (RICO),
Trafficking in Methamphetamine, Conspiracy to
Traffic Methamphetamine, 16 Defendants**

The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation is a multi-agency Narcotics, Vice and Organized Crime Law Enforcement Task Force assigned to Orange and Osceola Counties. The member agencies of MBI are the State Attorney of the Ninth Judicial Circuit; Sheriff of Orange County; Orlando Police Department; Winter Park Police Department; Apopka Police Department; Ocoee Police Department; University of Central Florida Police Department; Sheriff of Osceola County; Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Winter Garden Police Department; Florida Highway Patrol; United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; United States Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Postal Inspection Service, and the United States Secret Service.

Orlando, Florida, This morning, June 17, 2015, **The Orlando Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI), The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Florida Attorney General’s Office of Statewide Prosecution** with the assistance of the **Orange County Sheriff’s Office (OCSO), Polk County Sheriff’s Office (PCSO), Marion County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO), Volusia Bureau of Investigation (VBI)**, announced charges have been filed, and arrest warrants have been issued, naming **16 defendants** accused of being part of a Central Florida methamphetamine trafficking organization. Charges include: **Racketeering (RICO), Trafficking in Methamphetamine, and Conspiracy to Traffic in Methamphetamine over 200 Grams.**

At the center of the investigation was **John Wayne Bell, W/M, DOB 6-20-65**, the leader of the organization. **John Wayne Bell**, has an extensive criminal history, which includes **28 felony arrests and 11 misdemeanor arrests** for crimes including trafficking in Methamphetamine and Cocaine, Burglary, Counterfeiting, Aggravated Assault of a Police Officer, Grand Theft, (among other charges). **John Wayne Bell** has been incarcerated on three separate occasions for convictions of Methamphetamine Trafficking. **John Wayne Bell** was released from State prison on December 8, 2014, one month prior to the beginning of the MBI investigation. Other high ranking members of the Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) who were charged include his son, **John Bell Jr.**, and his wife, **Colleene Bell**. Most of the 16 persons charged today, have extensive violent criminal histories.

In January 2015, the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI) began to target this Methamphetamine trafficking organization. The investigation revealed the organization was distributing multiple pounds of Methamphetamine to several individual drug dealers in the Central Florida area. **John Wayne Bell** used a “stash house” located at **121 Live Oak Lane, Davenport, Florida**, to store the Methamphetamine before the dangerous could be divided up and sold. A search warrant was served on the residence early this morning.

Agents are currently in the process of locating and arresting other defendants at several locations in the Central Florida area. Arrestees are being transported to the Orlando Police Department to be processed and interviewed. Further information will be made available to the media beginning at 11:00 AM at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement training room located at 500 W. Robinson Street, Orlando, FL.

More arrests and seizures are anticipated, as the investigation continues to progress. MBI requests that anyone with additional information related to this Drug Trafficking Organization please contact MBI at (407) 836-9701 or Crimeline at 407-423-TIPS.



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John Wayne Bell



John Bell Jr.



Colleene Bell

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