

NEWS RELEASE

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JAMES R. BARREN, PH.D.

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DOG FIGHTING RING SHUT DOWN INJURED DOGS, DRUGS, AND CASH CONFISCATED

DETROIT – Officers from the Detroit Police Department's Central District arrested nine individuals connected to a large dog fighting ring on the city's eastside early this morning. At around 2:00 a.m., officers on patrol observed a male walking down the sidewalk carrying a dog crate. As the officers approached, the male turned and walked towards the rear of a vacant dwelling located in the 550 block of Mt. Vernon. The officers then observed the man place his hands in the snow, leaving red stains. They also saw what appeared to be an injured dog inside of the crate. The male was detained and questioned. The officers continued their investigation of the location where the man was walking to and observed a dog fighting ring and another crate with an injured pit bull inside. A thorough search of the vacant dwelling was conducted with officers subsequently arresting nine adults (seven males, two females with ages ranging from 20-years-old to 47-years-old), rescuing 17 pit bull dogs, seizing 5 suspected marijuana plants as well as nearly \$300 in U.S. currency. A hand gun was also confiscated. The blood stained dog fighting ring, several syringes, a clear substance believed to be steroids, and invoices (used to place bets on the fighting dogs) were also collected for evidence. Each arrested individual currently awaits felony charges.

"While some may view dog fighting as a low priority crime, this type of criminal activity is a magnet that breeds violence in our neighborhoods and can not be tolerated," said Police Chief James R. Barren. "Anyone who has ever witnessed or heard a dog fight take place never forgets the experience. Dog fighting is an extremely brutal act and anyone who participates deserves maximum charges for animal cruelty."

For additional information please contact the Office of Public Information at 313-596-2200.

