

**News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney**

February 7, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**DOORLEY, BAXTER AND CIMINELLI ANNOUNCE THE MONROE
COUNTY HEROIN TASK FORCE**

*The Monroe County Heroin Task Force Lays Out Law Enforcement Plan to Fight the Heroin Epidemic
in Monroe County*

Rochester, NY – On Wednesday, February 7, Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley shared details of the Monroe County Heroin Task Force, a law enforcement entity created to collect intelligence and identify long-term investigations in order to successfully prosecute heroin dealers and suppliers. Doorley was joined by Monroe County Sheriff Todd Baxter and Rochester Police Chief Michael Ciminelli, along with Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo and various police chiefs across Monroe County.

“Although our community continues to talk about heroin overdoses and educate our youth, more people are still dying on our streets,” said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley, *“Over the past six months, our office has been working with our partners in law enforcement to ensure we are collecting real-time data for investigatory purposes that will lead to real arrests of suppliers and dealers who I can put behind bars. The structure of the Monroe County Heroin Task Force utilizes three difference tracks, with the current emphasis on Enforcement, with a plan to incorporate Treatment and Prevention Services.”*

The Monroe County Heroin Task Force was assembled in the Fall of 2017 by the Monroe County District Attorney's Office with support from the Monroe County Crime Analysis Center, the Rochester Police Department and the Sheriff's Office. This task force established a single form in order to ensure a uniform data collection mechanism for law enforcement and investigatory purposes. This new method, which has been adopted by every police agency in Monroe County, gives law enforcement real-time data that allows police agencies to search for patterns and trends that will lead to long-term investigations.

“There is no greater drug epidemic than the one our community is facing right now,” said Sheriff Todd Baxter. *“Opioid overdose affects all of us; our families, our neighborhoods, our church communities, our children. We are attacking this crisis head-on with an aggressive approach, including a multi-jurisdictional partnership involving increased manpower, resources, and outreach. The Monroe County Heroin Task Force and Opioid Command Post are committed to responding from every angle within the critical first 24-36 hours of an opioid incident. We can't afford not to. Lives depend on it.”*

These forms give law enforcement the resources to ask the correct questions at an overdose scene, such as overdose location, drug type, known drug history, victim and supplier information and the use of Naloxone during the incident. This information is analyzed by the Monroe County Crime Analysis Center, the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, the Rochester Police Department and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office at the Opioid Command Post, located at the Rochester Police Department. At the Command Post, law enforcement will use the trends and patterns to plan long-term investigations and arrests, building strong cases for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance and even homicide charges. In addition to long term investigations daily reports are also being used to respond with real time actionable data. Assignments are given out at the command post each morning and based upon what occurred the night before, a Law Enforcement Officer or service provider response is assigned and tracked.

“The opioid epidemic greatly affects our community and the goal behind the task force is to develop a collaborative law enforcement approach to take an in-depth look into the epidemic to try to save lives in our community,” said Rochester Police Chief Michael Ciminelli. *“The consequences of doing nothing are too dire for us to not act given the national crisis we find ourselves in as it relates to the opioid epidemic.”*

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