



Keansburg Residents Charged with Cigarette Smuggling; Could Face \$70,000 Civil Penalty

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TRENTON, NJ - Keansburg residents Conrad Levulis, 43, and Carrie Ann Chapman, 34, were arrested by Special Agents of the State Treasury Department on November 21 and charged with multiple counts of cigarette smuggling.

The arrests were made at a home that Levulis and Chapman shared at 15 Brookside Avenue in Keansburg. Members of the Keansburg Police Department assisted the Treasury special agents in executing a search warrant at the residence.

Levulis was the subject of an investigation by New Jersey Department Treasury's Office of Criminal Investigation (OCI) for allegedly trafficking in contraband cigarettes as well as sales of Virginia stamped cigarettes from his home. He allegedly sold contraband cigarettes to a State undercover Agent on two different occasions.

Levulis and Chapman were arrested as they returned from Virginia where they had allegedly purchased cartons of cigarettes and transported them back to New Jersey for resale. Investigators alleged in court documents that the defendants carried out this smuggling pattern for several months. The Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office assisted OCI in the investigation. The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office K-9 unit also assisted with the search warrant.

A total of 70 cartons of Virginia stamped cigarettes were seized along with cell phones, a laptop computer and various records which allegedly recorded the illegal business activity. The defendants were processed at the Keansburg Police Headquarters.

Both were charged with ten violations of the New Jersey Cigarette Tax Act, including both 3rd and 4th degree crimes.

Additionally, a civil penalty of \$1,000.00 per carton may be imposed by the courts under new legislation that took effect on August 19, 2013.

Bail was set for Levulis at \$42,500, with no 10 percent cash option, and for Chapman at \$5,000 which she posted. Levulis was remanded to the Monmouth County Correction Institution.