

The Delaware County Daily Times (<http://www.delcotimes.com>)

## Suspected drug kingpin gets monitoring modified

*By Carl Hessler Jr.*

Friday, September 16, 2011

NORRISTOWN - An alleged Montgomery Township drug kingpin saw his electronically restricted release conditions modified so he can mow his lawn, work and worship.

Anthony Dennis Sr., 39, who earlier this month posted 10 percent of \$1 million bail to garner his release from jail pending trial on multiple drug-related charges, will be permitted to maintain employment at a Bryn Mawr painting company, attend meetings with his lawyer A. Charles Peruto Jr. "during regular business hours," attend doctor appointments "if required," and attend church services on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the ENON Baptist Church in Wyncote, according to an order signed by Montgomery County Judge Thomas C. Branca.

Dennis had asked the judge to modify the parameters of the court order that requires him to wear an electronic monitoring device while on bail to include the activities. Under electronic monitoring, defendants can leave their homes only for court-approved purposes.

Dennis, who lives with his wife and children in the 100 block of Thames Drive, also will be permitted to be "within the curtilage of his residence," presumably so he can mow, sit in his backyard and retrieve his mail at the end of his driveway.

"The commonwealth did not charge Mr. Dennis with any violent crimes or weapons offenses. A search of Mr. Dennis' person, home and business revealed the presence of no weapons," Peruto previously argued in court papers in which he requested the bail modifications. "Anthony Dennis has strong ties to the community."

Peruto argued Dennis, who at the time of his arrest allegedly operated the "Heads Up" barbershop in Wayne, Chester County, has been offered a job with a painting contractor in Bryn Mawr and would be required to work Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Mr. Dennis requires employment to provide for his family," Peruto said. "Anthony Dennis is the primary financial supporter for his family."

In court papers, Peruto described Dennis as "a hardworking taxpayer" whose reported gross income was \$91,467 from his barbershop business. Peruto said Dennis' wife, Lisa, runs and works at a local hair salon. The couple has two children.

Dennis previously pleaded not guilty to charges of corrupt organizations, possession with intent to deliver cocaine, conspiracy and dealing in unlawful proceeds in connection with an alleged drug ring that authorities claim targeted Montgomery, Chester and Philadelphia counties. Dennis was arrested as part of an investigation dubbed "Operation Heads Up."

Dennis' brother, Michael, 34, of Philadelphia, who works as a personal trainer, was charged as an alleged conspirator in the cocaine trafficking ring.

Simultaneous raids by 72 law enforcement officers at 21 locations in the three counties on May 18 resulted in the seizure of four pounds of cocaine with a street value of \$204,800, 14 vehicles, a 19-foot long fishing boat from a storage facility in Collegeville, more than \$76,000 in cash and 12 firearms, authorities alleged.

A total of 27 people were charged in connection their alleged involvement in the corrupt organization. The investigation began in November 2008 in Tredyffrin as township police and members of the Chester

County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Task Force investigated the barbershop as an alleged hub of the cocaine trafficking operation.

Authorities alleged the Dennis brothers were engaged in the sale of large quantities of cocaine to various individuals including cocaine dealers in Montgomery County.

The arrests were the culmination of a wiretap investigation into the activities of those allegedly involved in the drug ring.

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