

# NEWS RELEASE

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Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office  
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**Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor**

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## **MANALAPAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN LSD DISTRIBUTION SCHEME, FACES 10 YEARS IN PRISON**

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On April 14, 2010, John Rockford, 35, of Manalapan Township, N.J. pled guilty to first degree Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, LSD, with Intent to Distribute and third degree Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, Narcotic Drugs, with Intent to Distribute. Rockford entered his plea before Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Anthony J. Mellaci, Jr. Rockford is scheduled to return before Judge Mellaci for sentencing on July 9, 2010.

Rockford entered his plea of guilty pursuant to a negotiated plea agreement with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office. Pursuant to the terms of the plea agreement, the Monmouth County Prosecutors Office will recommend that Judge Mellaci sentence Rockford to 10 years in New Jersey State Prison with a requirement that he serve 3 years before being eligible for parole.

On August 24, 2007, the Manalapan Township Police Department executed a search warrant at Rockford's residence located at 5 Milton Avenue in Manalapan Township. The search uncovered numerous sheets of rice paper soaked in liquid LSD, prepared and stored for distribution, having a street value estimated between \$42,500 and \$127,500. Also seized during the search was over 4 ½ pounds of marijuana, more than \$6000 in cash, and over 7000 narcotic prescription pills, including oxycodone and morphine. Rockford was apprehended inside his home during the execution of the warrant and was arrested at the scene. The investigation conducted by the Manalapan Police revealed that Rockford had been actively selling LSD from inside his residence. Customers would enter Rockford's home through the garage where they would eventually purchase the controlled dangerous substance before exiting through the garage with the illegal drugs. At the time of his arrest, Rockford was in the middle of a drug transaction when the police arrived.

Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin stated, "The Manalapan Township Police Department is to be commended for this diligent investigation which resulted in the detection and apprehension of a major supplier of illegal drugs. As a result of their excellent police work, Monmouth County is safer--a large quantity of narcotics was seized before it could be distributed throughout the streets of our community."

**The case is assigned to Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor Meghan J. Doyle. Rockford is represented by Steven E. Nelson, Esquire, of Neptune, N.J.**

**Released: April 14, 2010**