



# Major Crimes Unit

*Fairfield County –Pickaway County, City of Logan, City of Athens & Ohio University*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday April 27, 2023**

On Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup> the South-Central Ohio Major Crimes Unit with assistance from the Lancaster Police Department, Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Program and the Ohio Department of Public Safety Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center concluded a several months long drug trafficking investigation in the City of Lancaster. As part of yesterday's operation Major Crimes Unit Detectives searched two Lancaster homes and arrested Gerald Tyrone Estep, 38 of 120 ½ Welsh Ave. Lancaster. Jason M. Smith 40 of 313 Harrison Ave W Lancaster a co-conspirator of Estep's was arrested on March 30<sup>th</sup> after a search of his residence.

Search warrants were executed at Estep's home at 120 Welsh Ave. Lancaster and another residence located at 543 E. Walnut St. Detectives recovered additional drugs and evidence of drug trafficking at the Welsh Ave residence. During Estep's arrest yesterday and Smith's arrest in March more than 140 grams of methamphetamine, 10 grams of fentanyl, marijuana, \$4,400.00 in currency, a Springfield .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun and a Ruger .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun were seized.

Both Estep and Smith were booked into the Fairfield County jail on outstanding warrants for possession of and trafficking in drugs. It is expected that both men and additional co-conspirators will face more charges stemming from this investigation after the case is presented to the Fairfield County Prosecutors office. This type of successful outcome is a direct result of these law enforcement agencies collaborating and sharing resources through the South Central Ohio Major Crimes Unit.





*The Major Crimes Unit is a collaborative Law Enforcement Ohio HIDTA Task Force which includes the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, Lancaster Police Department, Logan Police Department, Pickaway County Sheriff's Office, Athens Police Department, Ohio University Police Department, Ohio National Guard Counter Drug Program, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center, and the Fairfield, Hocking, Athens, and Pickaway County Prosecutors Offices.*

*Project FORT is a collaboration which includes the Fairfield County ADAM-H Board, The Recovery Center, Ohio Guidestones, Lancaster Recovery Services, Creed of Recovery, Hope Valley, The Lighthouse Recovery Services, Connections West, Lutheran Social Services, The Vineyard,*

**For any additional information or questions please contact the Major Crimes Unit Commander Dennis Lowe at 740-808-0100 or via email at [dennis.lowe@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:dennis.lowe@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)**