



Everything Jersey

Cocaine bags found floating in toilet when police raid Penns Grove man's home

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By

PENNS GROVE — A Penns Grove man was arrested here on multiple drug charges after local authorities executed a search warrant at his Walnut Street home and allegedly found cocaine floating in the toilet.

Joseph S. Johnson, 44, was charged with possession of cocaine, possession with intent to distribute, possession with intent to distribute in public housing, use of information to intercept, possession of a radio for EMS, possession of a weapon, and possession of a weapon by certain persons not allowed to have weapons, authorities said.

Johnson's arrest came after a search warrant was executed at approximately 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 20, at 23 Walnut St., Penns Grove, authorities said Tuesday.



JOHNSON

Authorities said two bags containing suspected cocaine were found floating in the toilet during a search of the property. The toilet was removed by detectives at the scene, and a third bag of cocaine was recovered, according to authorities.

Also seized at the home were: A scale, two scanners, a 12-gauge shotgun, \$384 in U.S. currency, and a large quantity of empty baggies, authorities said, adding the scanner found at the residence was allegedly being used to track local police.

"He used the scanner to intercept police communication to see if they were being targeted," said Acting County Chief of Detectives David Cornman. "They tuned the scanner to the local police frequency."

According to authorities, the two- or three-week investigation concluded with the search of the home.

Bail was set by Judge Nicholas T. Lacovara at \$150,000 cash. He was still lodged in the Salem County Correctional Facility in Mannington Township on Tuesday, according to authorities.

According to records from the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Johnson served more than six years in state prison for various drug charges starting April 1992. He was released in August 1998.

Entry to the residence was made by the New Jersey State Police TEAMS Unit. The Salem County Sheriff's Office and Penns Grove Police Department assisted in the investigation.

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