



Flagler County Sheriff's Office

Donald W. Fleming, Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tri-county Crime Ring Busted in Flagler County

A joint investigation between the Flagler County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement with the Tri-County HIDTA Task Force and the FBI Safe Streets Task Force that has resulted in the arrests of six men who are believed to be responsible for burglaries, vehicle thefts, illegal narcotics sales and other commercial burglaries throughout the State of Florida.

GRANT V. MORSE, PATRICK M. GIOVINE, RYAN T. GIOVINE, DAVE R. DOWNS, ETHAN D. GABOURY, and JAMES M. O'BRIEN became the prime focus of the joint investigation after a crime spree that started in April 2008. The two-year investigation concluded in July 2010.

MORSE was identified as the ring leader and the law enforcement agencies dubbed the investigation "Operation Morse Code" to signify his importance in the hierarchy of the organized crime operation.

Law enforcement officers discovered these six men were involved in an organized crime ring which committed various pharmacy burglaries, residential burglaries, illegal narcotics sales, ATM thefts, vehicle thefts, motorcycle thefts, and other commercial burglaries in numerous counties and municipalities throughout the State of Florida. This criminal enterprise operated primarily in Flagler, Volusia and St. Johns Counties. State Attorney R.J. Larizza's Office will be prosecuting the cases.

"This was a cooperative effort between law enforcement agencies working diligently to break up this organized ring that victimized residents in three counties. Their crime spree was costly and has now been ended," said Sheriff Fleming.

The leader of this criminal organization is **GRANT V. MORSE** assisted by **PATRICK M. GIOVINE, RYAN T. GIOVINE, DAVE R. DOWNS, ETHAN D. GABOURY, and JAMES M. O'BRIEN** are members of the criminal organization. This organization has a

defined hierarchy, to include a rank structure with specific positions and responsibilities for members.

Members of this criminal organization would conduct meetings at **GRANT V. MORSE's** or **PATRICK M. GIOVINE's** residence prior to committing a criminal act. Members would conduct mobile surveillances on the target locations prior to committing the crimes. **GRANT V. MORSE** would assign specific job tasks to members that would be assisting in the crime. If the crime required specific tools, members would purchase necessary items from local stores in the immediate area. Also depending on the location of the target location, the tools may have been left in the woods near that location prior to the crime. Often vehicles were stolen for the purpose of being utilized in a criminal act and the stolen vehicle would be staged in the area of the planned crime.

Members would communicate through cellular phones while on scene of the crime. Members discussed cover stories if they were encountered by law enforcement. Members also discussed evasive driving tactics during their mobile surveillances or if they were observed by law enforcement during their criminal activities. If a pharmacy was burglarized, **GRANT V. MORSE** would disperse the narcotics to the members to be sold on the streets. The criminal monies would be given back to **GRANT V. MORSE** and then disbursed accordingly.

One of the primary purposes of this crime ring was to use members to make money to facilitate their criminal activities. Furthermore, the organization combined their criminal monies, and the monies were disbursed accordingly, by **GRANT V. MORSE**. **MORSE** has no documented employment for the past several years.

Charges (Arrest Warrants) have been issued for:

Grant Morse, 46, formerly of 27 Patrick Drive, Palm Coast. Currently incarcerated in federal prison

RICO (Racketeering Violation) \$500,000

Conspiracy to Commit RICO \$500,000

Burglary \$100,000

Grand Theft \$100,000

Total: \$1,200,000

Patrick Giovine, 21, 49 Pepper Lane, Palm Coast, incarcerated in state prison.

RICO (Racketeering Violation) \$500,000

Conspiracy to Commit RICO \$500,000

Burglary \$100,000

Grand Theft \$100,000

Total: \$1,200,000

Dave Downs, 24, 62 Brunning Lane, Palm Coast-arrested this morning.

RICO (Racketeering Violation) \$500,000

Conspiracy to Commit RICO \$500,000
Burglary \$100,000
Grand Theft \$100,000
Total: \$1,200,000

Ethan Gaboury, 20, 233 Barker Road, East Wareham, Ma. Currently incarcerated in the Flagler County Inmate Facility.

RICO (Racketeering Violation) \$500,000
Conspiracy to Commit RICO \$500,000
Burglary \$100,000
Grand Theft \$100,000
Total: \$1,200,000

Ryan Giovine, 28, 35A Bunkerview Drive, Palm Coast arrested this morning.

RICO (Racketeering Violation) \$500,000
Conspiracy to Commit RICO \$500,000
Total: \$1,000,000

James O'Brien, 35, Halifax Drive in Daytona Daytoan Beach. Currently incarcerated at the Volusia County Jail.

RICO (Racketeering Violation) \$500,000
Conspiracy to Commit RICO \$500,000
Total: \$1,000,000