



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

Undersheriff Sammy L. Davis

155 Lt. Van Winkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

For Immediate Release:

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

Incarcerated Syracuse Man Faces Felony Charges after Fentanyl, Heroin and Marijuana Found During Corrections Investigation

(TOWN OF DICKINSON, NY) The Broome County Sheriff's Corrections Investigation Unit (CIU) successfully recovered Fentanyl, Heroin and Marijuana from an incarcerated Syracuse man at the Broome County Correctional Facility, leading to multiple felony charges.

On April 29, 2026, the CIU, acting on intelligence regarding possible contraband, entered one of the male housing units and conducted a search within the living quarters of Jean C. Benitez-Melendez, age 29 of Syracuse, NY. Benitez-Melendez was transferred to the Broome County Correctional Facility one day prior on April 28, 2026 by the US Marshals in Syracuse, NY on a federal probation violation.

During the search, the following items were located:

- On Benitez-Melendez's person was found a bundle of various substances wrapped in plastic, including a green leafy substance, which tested positive for Marijuana/THC, a pink, powdery substance which field tested positive for heroin, and a white, powdery substance, which field tested positive for fentanyl.
- A hand-rolled cigarette, containing a green, leafy substance that field tested positive for Marijuana/THC was also found in the air vent of his living quarters.

Following the investigation, Jean C. Benitez-Melendez was charged with:

- Two (2) Counts of Promoting Prison Contraband in the 1st Degree, Class D Felonies
- Tampering with Physical Evidence, a Class E Felony
- Two (2) Counts of Promoting Prison Contraband in the 2nd Degree, Class A Misdemeanors
- Two (2) Counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 7th Degree, Class

General Information:
(607) 778-1911

Fiscal:
(607) 778-2928

Garnishees:
(607) 778-2926

Civil:
(607) 778-2145

Identification:
(607) 778-2924

Records:
(607) 778-2166

A Misdemeanors

- Obstruction of Governmental Administration in the 2nd Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor

Benitez-Melendez was processed and arraigned at Central Arraignment Part.

“Outstanding work by our Corrections Investigations Team in swiftly recovering dangerous and potentially deadly contraband,” said Sheriff Fred Akshar. “We continue to see our targeted investments in the Correctional Facility paying off. This investigation should serve as a clear message to anyone considering an attempt to compromise the health, safety and security of those working and living in the Broome County Correctional Facility: You will be found and held accountable for your crimes.”

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