

SBK:SLT  
F# 2009R00377

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

C O M P L A I N T

- against -

PATRICK MURRAY,  
  
Defendant.

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(T. 21, U.S.C., §§ 841(a)(1)  
and 841(b)(1)(B)(vii))

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EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, SS:

DIETTE RIDGEWAY, being duly sworn, deposes and states that she is a Special Agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), duly appointed according to law and acting as such.

Upon information and belief, on or about February 24, 2009, within the Eastern District of New York, the defendant PATRICK MURRAY did knowingly and intentionally manufacture and possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance, which offense involved 100 or more marijuana plants.

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B)(vii))

The source of your deponent's information and the grounds for her belief are as follows:<sup>1</sup>

1. I have been a Special Agent with the DEA for approximately nine years. During that time, I have investigated numerous cases involving the importation and distribution of illegal drugs.

2. For approximately the past year, the DEA has been investigating a narcotics trafficking organization that distributes marijuana throughout the New York area. The organization maintains grow-houses in Queens, New York, in which marijuana is grown hydroponically for distribution in the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere. The investigation has revealed that PATRICK MURRAY is a member of this drug organization and is responsible for growing marijuana at various locations in Queens, New York.

3. On or about February 24, 2009, officers from the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") received information from a confidential source of information (the "CS") that PATRICK MURRAY was moving High Intensity Discharge ("HID") lights out of a grow-house in Queens, New York, and loading the lights into a

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<sup>1</sup> Because the purpose of this Complaint is to state only probable cause to arrest, I have not described all the relevant facts and circumstances of which I am aware.

U-haul truck. The CS provided NYPD officers with the specific address of the house, which was located at 88-23 237<sup>th</sup> Street, Queens Village, N.Y. Based on my training and experience, I know that HID lights are typically used by drug traffickers to grow hydroponic marijuana for indoor grow-houses. In particular, the same types of HID lights have been used by other members of the drug trafficking organization in which MURRAY is a member, and such lights have been recovered during the search of other grow-houses in Queens, New York, during the course of the DEA investigation.

4. Acting on the information provided by the CS, NYPD officers went to 88-23 237<sup>th</sup> Street, Queens Village, New York. on the afternoon of February 24, 2009. When they arrived at that address, the officers observed PATRICK MURRAY sitting in the driver's seat of a U-Haul truck parked in the driveway of the house. Officers approached MURRAY, asked him what he was doing in the area and asked whether he was transporting anything out of the house. MURRAY responded that he was just making a u-turn in the driveway and had no connection whatsoever to 88-23 237<sup>th</sup> Street, Queens Village, New York.

5. The NYPD officers then knocked on the door of 88-23 237<sup>th</sup> Street, Queens Village, New York and the door was answered by an individual who stated he/she was a tenant residing

in the house ("tenant #1"). NYPD Officers then knocked on the door of an upstairs apartment within the house and were greeted by another individual who stated that he/she was also a tenant residing in the upstairs apartment of the house ("tenant #2). Both tenant#1 and tenant#2 consented to let the officers search the house. Tenant#1 informed the NYPD officers that PATRICK MURRAY had access to the entire house and that MURRAY had been moving items out of the basement of the house that entire morning. Tenant#2 informed officers that he/she smelled marijuana coming from the basement of the house.

6. With the consent of tenant#1 and tenant#2, NYPD officers conducted a search of 88-23 237<sup>th</sup> Street, Queens Village, N.Y. Upon first entering the basement of the house, the NYPD officers noticed a strong smell of marijuana emanating from the basement. In the basement of the house, officers found a door that opened into a separate room. The door was ajar and unlocked at the time of the search but officers noted that the door did have a locking mechanism. Inside this basement room, the officers found an indoor hydroponic marijuana growing operation. NYPD officers identified approximately 100 marijuana plants being grown in the basement of the house.

7. PATRICK MURRAY was subsequently taken into custody by the NYPD and was searched by NYPD officers incident to his arrest. The NYPD officers found a key ring on the defendant's person during the search. NYPD officers tried the various keys located on the defendant's key ring and determined that the defendant's keys opened the front door of the house, the lock on the door to the basement marijuana grow-house and an exterior door leading to the marijuana grow-house.

8. Based on my training and experience, I know that the current retail price for locally-grown hydroponic marijuana is approximately \$5,000 per pound when distributed at the street level and that 100 marijuana plants would produce the equivalent of 100 pounds of sellable marijuana.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, the marijuana

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<sup>2</sup> These numbers reflect conservative estimates based on my previous experience. The actual value and weight of sellable marijuana produced by the marijuana plants seized in this case will depend on the potency level of tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC").

being grown by MURRAY would have resulted in profits of more than \$500,000 for MURRAY and his organization.

WHEREFORE, your deponent respectfully requests that the defendant be dealt with according to law.

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Diette Ridgeway  
Special Agent  
Drug Enforcement Administration

Sworn to before me this  
25th day of February 2009

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UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK