



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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## **PINELLAS COUNTY OXYCODONE TRAFFICKERS INDICTED FOR FRAUDULENT PRESCRIPTION SCHEME**

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces the unsealing of three indictments charging six defendants with conspiring to possess oxycodone with the intent to distribute it and distributing oxycodone. The defendants, Moises Rosario (age 28), Lawrence McCarthy (age 40), Juan Ramos (age 21), Jonathan Hamblin (age 21), James Dooley (age 40), Alexis Beltran (age 25), are all from Pinellas County. If convicted on all counts, each defendant faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison.

Three other individuals, Robert Whitney (age 31, of Clearwater), Mary Powers (age 23, of Clearwater), and Pedro Baez (age 33, of Pinellas Park), already have pleaded guilty to taking part in this oxycodone conspiracy; each pleaded guilty to initiating and directing a fraudulent prescription scheme to obtain and distribute oxycodone with others, including the six defendants in the indictments unsealed today.

According to court documents, Powers and Whitney generated on their computers fraudulent oxycodone prescriptions that were allegedly from area physicians and that had valid Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) numbers. Each prescription was for 240 30-mg oxycodone tablets. Baez and others, including the six defendants charged in the indictments unsealed today, then filled the prescriptions and provided Whitney and Powers

with the names they had used. When the pharmacy called the phone number on a fraudulent prescription for verification, Powers or Whitney answered and, posing as doctor's office personnel, verified the prescription.

In exchange for the fraudulent prescriptions, Baez and the others who filled them gave a portion of the oxycodone pills they obtained to Whitney and Powers. The fraudulent prescriptions were filled at Trinity Pharmacy, Baycare Pharmacy, and Seminole Drugs in Pinellas County.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, and the Clearwater Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kelley Howard-Allen.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.