



Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection

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Hundreds of Potentially Illegal Cannabis Products Seized During Multi-Agency Investigation

DESPP, DRS, DCP Collaborate with City of Waterbury to halt illegal drug sales

WATERBURY — An inter-agency enforcement effort this week led by the Waterbury Police Department and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection resulted in the seizure of hundreds of presumed THC products, prescription pharmaceuticals and numerous other violations.

The Department of Revenue Services, the Department of Consumer Protection and the Office of the Attorney General provided additional investigators and support during the coordinated enforcement operation focusing on six Waterbury businesses on Tuesday morning, July 23.

Investigators seized products presumed to contain THC that look like common snack foods such as cereal and candy, and that may have been sold to people under the age of 21. Photos of seized products are included below.

Cannabis may be legally purchased in Connecticut by adult consumers who are at least 21 years old. Sales are only allowed at licensed retailers who must meet health and safety guidelines. Illegal cannabis products pose a unique risk to children, who may unknowingly ingest unsafe doses of THC.

The enforcement effort was focused on finding illegal cannabis products for sale. Investigators found:

- Hundreds of commercially packaged snacks presumed to contain THC.
- Vape cartridges, cigars and gummies, all presumed to contain THC.

The products were found at Up In Smoke. The items have been sent to DESPP's forensic lab for testing. The Waterbury Police Department is continuing its investigation.

In addition to illegal cannabis products, investigators from the Department of Consumer Protection found the following violations:

- Sale of foreign prescription pharmaceuticals, including sildenafil used to treat erectile dysfunction and ampicillin, an antibiotic used to manage and treat bacterial infections. These products were found at Mya's Deli Grocery, Yellow Store, Adriel Mini Market, Betances Grocery Market.

- Sale of non-legend drugs and electronic nicotine delivery systems without active credentials. These products were found at Mama's Little Market.

All foreign prescription medications and syringes were surrendered to the Department of Consumer Protection's Drug Control Division. DCP will test the products using a TruNarc device, which can detect the presence of substances like fentanyl, amphetamines and other controlled substances.

Investigators from the Department of Revenue Services found the following violations:

- Sale of loose cigarettes.
- Possession of untaxed cigarettes.
- Fraudulent cigarette tax stamps.

Two misdemeanor arrests were made by the Department of Revenue Services related to these violations.

Investigators visited six businesses in Waterbury during the joint operation: Mya's Deli Grocery, 293 Walnut St.; Yellow Store, 352 Walnut St.; Up In Smoke, 358 Walnut St.; Adriel Mini Market, 50 North Walnut St.; Betances Grocery Market, 82 Oak St.; Mama's Little Market, 264 Walnut St.

"The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection is committed to supporting local and state law enforcement and regulatory efforts to make our communities safer," said **DESPP Commissioner Ronnell A. Higgins**. "I look forward to the continued collaboration between DESPP and other state agencies as we partner on ways to protect the citizens of Connecticut, and particularly our children and youth."



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“This is a terrific example of not just inter-agency collaboration, but also state and municipal cooperation to ensure local businesses are compliant with state regulations,” said **DRS Commissioner Mark Boughton**. “I want to thank our excellent Criminal Investigation Division for their professionalism and dedication as well as our partners who made this operation a success. As this remains an ongoing investigation, we’ll share information about further citations as appropriate.”

“Inter-agency collaboration is critical to protecting public health and safety,” said **DCP Commissioner Bryan T. Cafferelli**. “Adults who choose to consume cannabis are reminded to do so responsibly — including making purchases through the regulated market, which ensures products meet the state’s rigorous testing standards, meet strict packaging and labeling requirements, and guarantee that you are receiving exactly what you are purchasing.”

“Cannabis is legal for adults in Connecticut, but it’s not a free-for-all,” said **Attorney General William Tong**. “We’re still seeing untested, unregulated products for sale by unlicensed retailers. This is unsafe and against the law, and particularly dangerous for kids. We’re going to keep working closely across all levels of law enforcement to crack down on these illegal sales.”

“This joint initiative was a result of incredible collaboration between the Waterbury Police Department and state agencies, including the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Department of Revenue Services, and the Department of Consumer Protection,” said **Waterbury Police Chief Fernando Spagnolo**. “Our collective efforts are essential in keeping communities safe while raising awareness regarding the illegal sale of cannabis based products. WPD remains committed to protecting our residents through continued vigilance and enforcement efforts.”

“The illegal sale of unregulated, untested cannabis-based products presents a real danger to our entire community, but particularly to our youth,” said **Waterbury Mayor Paul K. Pernerewski**. “The sale of illegal cannabis products will not be tolerated in the City of Waterbury. Today’s crackdown sends a clear message to retailers: if you trade in illegal cannabis products you will face serious legal consequences and product seizure. I want to express my gratitude to the Waterbury Police Department along with our state partners for their remarkable collective efforts to crackdown on these illicit sales.”

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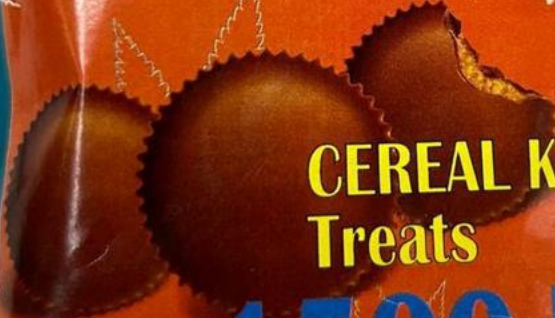




④ 1000 mg
⑤ 1000 mg
1500 mg F.

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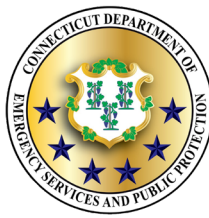
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