

BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE:09-20-18

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

A domestic disturbance reported to the Benton County Sheriff's Office on 09-18-18 between a man and a woman in southeast St. Cloud resulted in the arrest of two men and a woman on a number of charges. At about 8:30 pm on 09-18-18 the Benton County Sheriff's Office received the report of a man with a gun at the front door of a residence in the 1600 block of 2nd St SE, St. Cloud, MN. Benton County deputies responded to the scene along with officers from the St. Cloud Police Department, Sauk Rapids Police Department, and Minnesota State Patrol. Upon arrival, investigating officers found Candice Mari Counter (age 33 of Sauk Rapids) and Eric Jay Robertson (age 53 of St. Cloud) in a car outside of the residence. Officers also discovered that inside the residence was Carlos Jesus Mendoza (age 50 of St. Cloud) and another adult female. An investigation into the incident revealed that Counter and Mendoza had been in a relationship for the past several weeks. Officers learned that this relationship had come to an end and that Counter had come to Mendoza's residence to remove her property from the residence while Mendoza was away. After Mendoza arrived home and found Counter removing her property, a physical altercation occurred between Mendoza and Counter. Mendoza and Counter each blamed the other for initiating this altercation. Counter alleged that Mendoza confronted her with a handgun forcing her to strike him to make him drop the gun. Counter alleged that Mendoza then assaulted her. Mendoza denied having a gun and alleged Counter attacked him, only stopping when the other adult female at the residence intervened. Mendoza alleged that after this third person stopped the fight, Counter told Mendoza she was going to get Robertson and a gun. Officers did not find a gun in the possession of any of the people at the scene. A Benton County K-9 was called to the scene to search the area for a gun. During this search, a black backpack was located on the patio. Mendoza advised officers that this was his backpack and gave his consent to search it. Inside the backpack, officers found items belonging to both Mendoza and Counter along with drug paraphernalia. The K-9 completed an extensive search of the area for a gun, but was unable to locate one. Following this search, the K-9 was brought to the car Counter and Robertson had been inside when officers arrived. The K-9 gave indication that there were controlled substances inside the vehicle. Officers conducted a search of the vehicle and located a black purse. Inside the purse were documents indicating the purse belonged to Counter, drug paraphernalia, and two small plastic baggies containing several grams of suspected methamphetamine. Officers searching the car then located several bags containing

counterfeit \$50 bills in property belonging to Counter. Finally, inside the locked glove compartment of the car, officers located several ounces of suspected methamphetamine and a gram scale. The investigation revealed that the car in question belonged to Robertson. Robertson was searched and officers located over \$1,000 in cash on his person.

Mendoza was arrested on charges of domestic assault. Counter was arrested on charges of domestic assault and controlled substance crime. Robertson was arrested on charges of controlled substance crime. All three were brought to the Benton County Jail.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Heck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Troy Heck
Benton County Sheriff