

FENTANYL SUSPECT IN COURT - HE FACES DRUG, WEAPONS CHARGES

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A Detroit man whom authorities have called a significant dealer of a deadly form of heroin had a basement laboratory and an armory to defend it, according to **court** records reviewed Saturday.

Daren Reese, 45, was arraigned on drug and weapons charges Saturday **in** Detroit's 36th District **Court**. **Court** records indicate that **in** an earlier raid on Reese's home just northwest of I-94 and the Lodge Freeway, officers found 63 grams of suspected heroin and an undetermined amount of a crystallized white powder believed to be **fentanyl**, a prescription painkiller being mixed on the streets with heroin to create a more intense - and potentially lethal - high.

Officers said they didn't weigh the white powder at the scene because of health concerns.

The substances were found **in** Reese's basement, along with powdered cutting agents, about 100 grams of suspected marijuana, coffee grinders with suspected heroin residue, protective face masks, aluminum foil packets, razor blades, sifters and numerous Ziploc-type baggies, according to an investigator's report contained **in** Reese's **court** file.

Authorities also reported finding a loaded 12-gauge Mossberg shotgun with a pistol grip, and a bullet-resistant vest. Upstairs, officers found an unspecified amount of more suspected heroin **in** a kitchen cabinet and three loaded pistols - one by the front door and two **in** the master bedroom. There also was \$5,500 **in** cash and 21.2 grams of suspected marijuana near the bed.

Reese lives **in** the 1200 block of Elijah McCoy, near the Jeffries housing project, where authorities say he kept street dealers supplied with drugs.

The raid followed Reese's arrest **in** a traffic stop earlier Thursday. Wayne County Sheriff's deputies and federal agents had been watching him after receiving information from a drug user who was found unconscious **in** a car recently **in** Highland Park. The 22-year-old suburban woman, whom authorities have not identified, cooperated **in** the hunt for the source of **fentanyl** - laced heroin, a plague **in** several areas of the country and the cause of about 130 deaths **in** Wayne County since 2005.

Officers said they found 83 packets of drugs **in** Reese's pocket after they pulled over his 2006 Cadillac **in** Detroit. Tests later confirmed the packets contained **fentanyl** and heroin, **court** records show.

On Saturday, Reese was ordered held on \$200,000 cash bond during his arraignment on 10 charges involving drugs and weapons. Reese, who has past convictions related to drugs and robbery, also is charged with being a habitual offender.

Wayne County assistant prosecutor Karen Plants had asked Magistrate Sidney Barthwell Jr. for an even higher cash bond - \$500,000 - contending Reese was dangerous.

"This gentleman is the latest incarnation of Dr. Death," Plants said **in court**

Reese's lawyer, Paul Curtis of Detroit, objected to Plants' remarks as "scurrilous and inflammatory," but Barthwell agreed with Plants and ordered a significant bond.

A group of people apparently **in court** to see Reese did not comment as they left the building.

Afterward, Curtis defended his client, saying: "What's going on is politics going on."

Sheriff Warren Evans, who met with reporters after the arraignment, said Reese was a mid-level supplier to street dealers, and that his arrest will make a dent **in** drug dealing, particularly around the Jeffries project.

But, Evans warned: "This is not a time for people to think this is over. ...It's a scourge."

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