

POLICE CONFISCATE COCAINE WORTH \$ 11.6 MILLION 2 RAIDS ON WEST SIDE LINKED TO A DRUG RING

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The Detroit **Police** Department confiscated 29 kilograms of **cocaine** with a street value of \$ **11.6 million** this week in what Chief Benny Napoleon says will make a major dent in street drugs.

"This will go a significant distance in helping to ease the flow of narcotics that are heading toward the streets of the city," Napoleon told a news conference Friday. "This is a major, major confiscation."

As Napoleon spoke, behind him lay the **cocaine**, most of it packaged in brick-sized rectangles wrapped in pink, purple and yellow plastic, like Easter egg candy.

Police also confiscated five long guns and a .38-caliber handgun.

The drugs were taken Thursday afternoon in two house raids. **Police** said about 27 kilos, or 59 pounds, were taken from a home in the 6300 block of London on Detroit's northwest side; another 2 kilos, more than 4 pounds, were taken from a home in the 14000 block of Vaughan on the west side.

The drug busts are among the larger ones made by Detroit **police** and will have a significant effect on a drug ring, Napoleon said. The busts are part of a continuing effort to crack down on the sale of illegal drugs in the city, he said.

Sgt. Michael Lee, who led the raid of the house on London, said the bust there went smoothly. There was nothing about the the house that made it stand out, he said, in a nice, working-class neighborhood.

Police arrested two men in their 30s. They are expected to be arraigned today on drug- and weapon-related charges.

The department's gang squad got the tip that led to the busts. Napoleon said the investigation into the source of the drugs is continuing.

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Caption: Photo WILLIAM ARCHIE/Detroit Free Press

Detroit **police** officers Sgt. Michael Lee, left, Cmdr. Harold Cureton, Chief Benny Napoleon and Lt. Robert Dunlap talk Friday at **police** headquarters, where they showed off **cocaine** seized this week.

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