



## Lower Township Police Department

405 Breakwater Road  
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609-886-1619

### Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8/13/2013

## CHECK THE WELL BEING LEADS LOWER POLICE TO DRUG AND FUGITIVE ARREST

On Monday, 08-02-13, at approximately 2:30 pm, Lower Township Police Department received numerous calls from concerned citizens, who had observed a white male subject walking along Bayshore Road in the area of Fulling Mill Road.

Police responded to check his well being. Upon arrival, police report that they located a white male subject, identified as Joseph Ruffing of the 300 Block of East Wilde Avenue, Villas, New Jersey.

Mr. Ruffing appeared to be disoriented and acting erratically. Officer Iames approached Mr. Ruffing and noticed a hypodermic needle laying on the ground near Ruffing. A further check of the area by Patrolman Barcas, who had arrived to assist Iames, revealed a second hypodermic syringe found nearby.

While waiting to see if Ruffing had any outstanding warrants, Ruffing suddenly took off running down Locust Avenue. After a brief foot chase, he was apprehended by the officers. It was discovered that Ruffing had two active warrants from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, on theft charges.

A search of Ruffing's person, incident to arrest, revealed two additional hypodermic needles and eight bags of suspected Heroin. He was charged with Possession of Heroin, Hypodermic Syringes and a Fugitive from Justice, along with Obstruction of Justice for fleeing from police. He was placed in the Cape May County Correctional Center in Lieu of bail. Bail was set on the drug charges by JMC Thomas Hillegass, at \$20,000 cash. No bail was set on the Fugitive warrants from Bucks County.

Press Release Prepared By

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