



**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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**\*\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\*WALLA WALLA POLICE DEPT\*\*\*\***  
**Search Warrant Leads to Arrest of Heroin Distributor**

January 11, 2017

Drug Detectives from the Special Teams Unit made a substantial seizure and arrest following the discovery of Heroin being mailed through a local shipping business. Officer Fulmer and his K-9 “Pick” were conducting a “sniff” of packages at the Postal Annex Tuesday morning when the dog alerted on a package. The item was seized and turned over to narcotics detectives to apply for a search. The warrant was granted and subsequent search revealed a stuffed animal containing approximately 4 ounces of suspected “China White” Heroin.

Further investigation led to the identification of the College Place resident who had attempted to mail the package to a California address. Detectives responded to 104 SE 12<sup>th</sup> St. in College Place to make contact with Luz S. Leon, 37 years of age. She had used an alias of Mara Rodriguez when she attempted to ship the package. She did not answer to repeated knocks on her door, so officers kept the residence under surveillance while a search warrant was requested.

A short time later, Leon was taken into custody when she came outside to take a garbage can to the curb of her street. Detectives searched her residence after the second warrant was granted. Items seized during the search included an additional 4 ounces of suspected Heroin, about 3 ounces of suspected Methamphetamine, \$832 cash, and a sawed-off shotgun.

Leon was lodged at Walla Walla County Corrections for 1 count of Delivery of Heroin, 2 counts of Possession with Intent to Deliver—Methamphetamine and Heroin, and Possession of a Short Barreled Shotgun. The drug related charges are all Class B felonies and the weapon violation is a Class C felony. She also had other outstanding warrants for her arrest from previous law enforcement contacts.

This is the largest seizure of Heroin in the area for many years. The street value of the Heroin is conservatively estimated at about \$12,000, providing roughly 450 dosage units for an addict. The Methamphetamine has an estimated value of \$5,000.

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