

Mortgage Rates Hit Record Lows! Click Your State

Web MSNBC

Alerts Newsletters RSS Help

MSN Home Hotmail Sign In



MSNBC Home » Local news » Bridgeport, CT

The Connecticut Post | Local Sports | Your Weather

The Connecticut Post—Bridgeport, CT

•MAKE THIS YOUR LOCAL NEWS

TOP STORIES FROM:



Local News

Your local news

Other cities

Local Business

U.S. News

World News

Business

Sports

Entertainment

Tech / Science

Health

Weather

Travel

Blogs Etc.

Local News

Newsweek

Multimedia

News Video

Most Popular

NBC NEWS

MSNBC TV

Today Show

Nightly News

Meet the Press

Dateline NBC

By edit@ctpost.com (DIRK PERREFORT
dperrefort@ctpost.com)

The Connecticut Post

MILFORD — West Haven's largest marijuana bust in history went up in smoke Thursday as a Superior Court judge signed off on a surprise plea deal that resulted in the suspects receiving little to no prison time.

Court officials cited problems with how police conducted their search of homes on Center Street and Washington Avenue in West Haven, where \$4 million worth of the drug were found.

"The court is of the opinion that this is the best and appropriate disposition to these cases," Judge John Ronan said in court while accepting the pleas. "Especially in view of conflicting testimony that's been presented to the court, in addition to what I view as serious legal search and seizure issues."

Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney Mark Hurley said he agreed with Ronan's position that there were serious search issues in the case.

"There were legal issues regarding the seizure of the evidence that could have impacted its

MORE LOCAL LINKS FROM THE

- Find a Job
- Classifieds
- Find a Car
- Obituaries
- Search Archives

MOST POPULAR

- **Most Viewed** • Top Rated
- Test Your Boomer Knowledge
- The Boomer Files
- Another tornado victim found i
- French riots hit 274 towns, spr
- Cruise reportedly drops sis as j
- **Most viewed on MSNBC.com**

MORE NEWS FROM YOUR REG

- Danbury
- Hartford
- New York
- Other Cities



Shopping

Jobs

Personals

with PerfectMatch.com

Autos

Real Estate

Travel Booking

with Expedia



admissibility," he said.

Hurley dropped the charges against Meing Le, 50, of Platt Street, while Thu Dang, 42, and Tam Ha, 30, both of Center Street, pleaded guilty under the Alford Doctrine to possession of more than four ounces of marijuana. Dang received a five-year suspended prison sentence, while Ha received a five-year sentence, suspended after 360 days served.

The two men and one woman, Vietnamese immigrants living in West Haven, were arrested on Dec. 22, 2003, after police seized more than 1,000 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$4 million from the two homes. Police also seized 46 lights and 58 converters used to grow the plants. The surprise plea agreements came after a day and a half of testimony on a motion to suppress evidence in the case.

New Haven attorney Frank Knight, who represents Dang, said there were inconsistencies with police officers' testimony about the search and no consent was given to investigators who inspected the homes.

"It's nice to see the law working and that the Constitution is still alive and well," she said. "Judge Ronan is a judge who is very courageous and wise."

Dirk Perrefort, who covers Milford, can be reached at 878-2130.

CONTACT THE POST

Message

Empty message box

Your name

Input field for name

Your e-mail address

Input field for email address

Send

Your e-mail address and/or phone number. Leave your name or hometown blank if you published.



Ads ONLINE

Rate this story Low High

Current rating: 0 by 0 users • View Top Rated stories



Print this



Email this



Blog this

MORE FROM THE CONNECTICUT POST

Next →

The Connecticut Post Section Front

- Self-defense equals self-esteem
- Expansion mulled for health district
- 16 displaced after fire guts 3-family home
- 4 pets killed as fire destroys home in Stratford
- STEAMY NIGHT OF STRINGS, SYMPHONIES