



**BOROUGH OF HALEDON
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Office of the Police Administration
510 Belmont Avenue | Haledon, New Jersey 07508



Angelo J. Daniele
CHIEF OF POLICE
Chief Executive Officer

George Guzman, Jr.
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

For Immediate Release:

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Contact:

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**HALEDON POLICE DEPARTMENT SUCCESSFULLY
DISMANTLES ECSTASY MANUFACTURING OPERATION**

Haledon, NJ - The Haledon Police Department made a significant stride in combatting illegal drug activity with the successful takedown of an ecstasy manufacturing operation in the heart of our community. Acting on credible information provided by a concerned citizen, the diligent investigative efforts by the members of our Investigative and Special Services Bureau led to the execution of a search warrant at a residence located on the 300th block of Haledon Avenue.

On February 10, 2024, members of the Haledon Police Department conducted the search-warrant execution that resulted in the successful apprehension of Mr. Santiago Zapata-Palomeque, a 23-year-old resident of Haledon. The search of Mr. Zapata's bedroom unveiled evidence, including two (2) five-gallon buckets containing 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA). Furthermore, small quantities of additional MDMA and Cocaine, manufacturing equipment, and fraudulent government identification documents were seized from the premises. Due to the nature of this operation, the Passaic County Hazmat Team, the Haledon Board of Health, and the Haledon Fire Department were summoned to the scene.

Mr. Zapata Palomeque faces serious criminal charges, including Maintaining a Controlled Dangerous Substance Production Facility (a first-degree crime), Possession/Manufacturing/Intent to Distribute Schedule I Controlled Dangerous Substances (a first-degree crime), and Possession of Fraudulent Government IDs (a fourth-degree crime). Detective Jeffrey Welsh is the lead detective on this case.

The suspect is presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.



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Official Statements

“I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to our Honorable Mayor Michael Johnson and the esteemed members of the Haledon Municipal Council for their steadfast support of the strategic vision outlined by our police administration. Their unwavering commitment to furnish us with essential necessary resources has empowered the Haledon Police Department to augment our investigative capacities and broaden our community engagement endeavors. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated officers and detectives for their unyielding devotion to protecting and serving Haledon.”

– **Chief of Police Angelo J. Daniele**

“We are immensely proud to acknowledge the collaborative efforts of the Haledon Police Department and our residents in this successful operation targeting an ecstasy mill within our borough. The strong relationship between the Haledon Police Department and the community we serve played a pivotal role in the successful outcome of this operation. It underscores the mutual trust and respect that exist between the Haledon Police Department and the residents of Haledon, ultimately leading to a safer environment for all. As we continue to work towards keeping Haledon safe and secure, this operation serves as a testament to the dedication of our police department and the collaborative spirit of our community. Together, we will strive to uphold the principles of compassion, unity, resiliency and equality that define the Haledon Police Department.”

– **Deputy Chief George Guzman, Jr., Public Information Officer**

“As Mayor of Haledon, I am proud to acknowledge the exceptional work of the Haledon Police Department in dismantling an ecstasy mill within our municipality. Public safety is a top priority in my administration, and this accomplishment showcases the commitment and hard work of the women and men of the Haledon Police Department. I want to highlight that the Governing Body has diligently provided meaningful resources to the Haledon Police Department, enabling them to embrace 21st-century policing practices. This investment has empowered our police force to effectively combat criminal activity and uphold law and order in our borough.”

– **Mayor Michael Johnson**

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