

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 5, 2007

RECORD AMOUNT OF KETAMINE AND THREE GUNS SEIZED IN RYE BROOK

Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore announced today that Michael Avallone (DOB 01/15/80) of 33 Roanoke Avenue, Rye Brook, New York, was arraigned on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Fourth Degree, class "C" Felonies, and one count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree, a Class "D" Felony.

On November 1, 2007 at approximately 4:00 p.m., after a month long investigation involving police surveillance, Harrison Police arrested the defendant at 450 Mamaroneck Avenue in the Town of Harrison. Avallone was in possession of sixty five 1,000 ml bottles of Ketamine.

Later the same day, investigators from the Westchester District Attorney Narcotics Initiative task force (W-DANI), along with police from the Rye Brook, Harrison and Mamaroneck Town Police Departments, executed a search warrant for the defendant's Roanoke Avenue home in the Village of Rye Brook.

During the raid, police seized an additional 1,498 1000 ml bottles of Ketamine, two loaded .9mm semi-automatic handguns, a loaded .22 Derringer handgun, ammunition for a .357 magnum handgun and a large quantity of steroids.

Agents from the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration and the White Plains Police Department also assisted in the investigation.

The street value of the seized Ketamine is estimated to be over \$150,000, making this the largest seizure of Ketamine by W-DANI and the largest Ketamine drug case prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

Ketamine, also known as Special K, jet, super acid, or cat Valium, is a general anesthetic marketed for human and veterinary use. It has recently become popular among teens and young adults for recreational use.

Avallone's bail was set at \$500,000 In Rye Brook. His next court date in Rye Brook is November 13, 2007. His next court date in Harrison is November 9, 2007.

Avallone faces a maximum of five and a half years in state prison on each of the drug charges and seven years in state prison on the gun charge.

Assistant District Attorney Thomas Luzio, Chief of the Narcotics Bureau will prosecute the case.