



SHERIFF JAMES V. DIPAOLO

MIDDLESEX SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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"PRESS RELEASE"

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MURDER FOR HIRE PLOT THWARTED

Threats to kill a local police officer bring law enforcement agencies closer together.

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office on or about December 5, 2003, developed information that brought together the following agencies: the Middlesex Sheriff's Office, the Medford Police, the Massachusetts Police, the Lowell Police, the Boston Police and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office.

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office investigation led to the formation of a task force and began after Lowell Police Detective Robert Caron supplied our office with information pertinent to the Middlesex House of Correction at Billerica (BHOC).

Middlesex Sheriff's Deputies, working with this early information, helped to uncover a conspiracy to murder a Medford Police Officer and the wife of a BHOC inmate. The inmate attempted to hire a hit-man for a sum of money to kill the Police Officer and the inmate's wife. When the inmate became impatient because the job had not been performed, he apparently approached another who was in fact a Massachusetts State Police undercover officer acting as hit-man #2. In that capacity the undercover officer gathered evidence implicating the BHOC inmate in the conspiracy to murder his own wife and the Medford Police Officer.

Middlesex Sheriff's Office officials broke the code the conspirators used to plan their crime.

The investigation led to the identification of Barry P. Joyce, age 47, of Boston as hit-man #1 and culminated in his arrest December 16, 2003. Mr. Joyce was arrested in Lynn by the Massachusetts State Police, Medford Police and Middlesex Sheriff's Deputies.

Inmate Robert Lamb, co-conspirator at the center of this plot in this matter is currently incarcerated at the Middlesex House of Correction at Billerica on a prior conviction for Assault & Battery.

Sheriff James V. DiPaola stated: "Mr. Lamb chose to continue his criminal behavior even from behind bars. This brazen conspiracy strikes at the heart of our justice system. Fortunately, interagency cooperation and good, old-fashioned investigative work prevented the situation from turning tragic. Let this serve as a reminder that our peace officers put their lives on the line every day. I congratulate everyone involved in this successful investigation on their hard work, and thank them for their willingness to put themselves out there every day to protect and serve."

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