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**OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE**

**August 17, 2010**

On August 13, 2010, the Berlin Police Department, Detective Division, arrested Richard Luppino, age 49 of 1044 Farmington Ave, Berlin, Connecticut, on the following charges:

1. Illegal Cultivation of Marijuana
2. Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Sell
3. Operating a Drug Factory
4. Possession of Marijuana
5. Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

The arrest was the result of a lengthy investigation that had been initiated from information provided by members of the New Britain Police Department and the West Hartford Police Department regarding a marijuana growing operation at the above address (Suburban Windows and Siding).

During the course of the investigation, two search and seizure warrants were obtained and executed by members of the Berlin Police Department. As a result of the warrant execution, 132 marijuana plants were seized from the location, along with numerous containers of dried, packaged marijuana, one handgun, a significant amount of hydroponic growing equipment and approximately \$8,000.00 in cash. The marijuana plants and the packaged marijuana have an estimated street value of \$250,000.00.

Mr. Luppino was released on a Police Department set bond of \$150,000.00. He is scheduled to appear in the New Britain Superior Court on Thursday, August 26, 2010.

**Public Information Office  
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