

Cash, drugs, forged documents seized in Salem drug bust

by Richard Burton

A Salem husband and wife were arrested early Thursday morning following the execution of a search warrant at their southeast Salem home where police allegedly found drugs, false documents including social security cards and immigration documents, and \$14,000 in cash.

Maria Michelena Delgado, 19, and her husband Miguel Santiago-Hernandez, 34, were taken into custody without incident and lodged at the Polk County jail in Dallas following the search of the residence located in the 3200 block of SE Edward Drive in Salem.

Miguel Santiago-Hernandez and Maria Michelena Delgado were arrested following Thursday's drug bust in southeast Salem. Polk County Jail Photos. The Polk County Inter-agency Narcotics Team and the Salem Police Department Street Crimes Unit obtained the search warrant with information gleaned from a three-week investigation.

Officers found Delgado had been watching two children at the home. One was her natural child, and the other was her husband's child from another relationship. Both children were taken into protective custody by the Department of Human Services.

In addition to \$14,000 cash, officers seized over 58 grams of cocaine, 9 grams of methamphetamine, various drug paraphernalia, and false documents including social security cards and immigration documents. Two vehicles were also seized during the raid.

Delgado faces two counts of first-degree child neglect, criminal possession of forgery instrument. Her bail was set at \$50,000.

Sanatiago-Hernandez is charged with two counts of first-degree child neglect, three counts of possession of a controlled substance (meth), two counts of distribution of a controlled substance, three counts of possession of a controlled substance (cocaine), and 20 counts of distribution of a controlled substance (cocaine). His bail was set at \$170,000.

A third adult at the residence, 35-year old Rafael Michelena Barrientos, was also taken into custody on an immigration detainer.

Polk County Sheriff Bob Wolfe stated “This is an excellent example of the collaborative effort from the different agencies that form the POINT team, as well as working with Salem Police Department.”

Cash, drugs, forged documents seized in Salem drug bust by Richard Burton