

All of the defendants were arraigned on the Sealed Indictment Warrants in Delaware County Court on Friday morning by the Honorable Carl F. Becker, County Court Judge and returned to jail without bail pending further court action.

In addition to their arrests on the Sealed Indictment Warrants, Cullipher, Rutt and Prakash also face additional charges.

Cullipher was arrested and charged with Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, a D felony, and Criminally Possessing a Hypodermic Instrument. Cullipher is accused of possessing a hypodermic instrument upon intake at the Delaware County Correctional Facility.

A search of Cullipher's clothing conducted by Delaware County Correctional Facility intake officers upon his admission to the jail resulted in the discovery of a hypodermic syringe and needle secreted within the hem of his jacket.

Cullipher will be arraigned on those charges in the Town of Delhi Court at a later time.

Prakash will also face additional drug related charges, which will be filed by SUNY Delhi University Police as a result of their execution of a search warrant on Prakash's SUNY Delhi dorm room Thursday evening.

Rutt was also charged with Unlawful Possession of Marihuana and issued an Appearance Ticket returnable in the Town of Delhi Court at a later date. He is accused of possessing a quantity of marihuana at the time of his arrest.

In addition, as the result of possible fraud involving the possession of a Public Assistance Benefit Card by one of the defendants, a referral was made to Otsego County District Attorney's Investigators regarding potential public assistance fraud in Otsego County.

In closing earlier this year, in an effort to discourage the introduction and possession of drugs within the Delaware County Correctional Facility, Sheriff Thomas Mills instituted a new policy authorizing random K-9 narcotic searches within the jail. The K-9 searches augment random searches of the facility that have been routinely conducted by Correction Officers. Several K-9 searches have been conducted within the jail this year by K9 Handler Deputy John Demeo, K-9 "Ozzie" and members of the Criminal Investigation Division. No drugs or drug related paraphernalia have been located within the jail housing units or recreation areas as a result of the on-going searches.