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SENECA COUNTY SHERIFF JACK S. STENBERG ANNOUNCES MAJOR MARIHUANA GROWING AND DISTRIBUTION OPERATION SHUT DOWN.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT: Lt. John Cleere**
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Seneca County Sheriff Jack S. Stenberg announced today that last evening, Sheriff's Investigators and uniform personnel executed a search warrant at 2502 Lower Lake Road, Seneca Falls, New York, at a home rented and occupied by Michael S. O'Malley, age 25.

Seneca County Sheriff's Office Narcotics unit investigators and uniformed personnel executed the search warrant yesterday evening and uncovered an elaborate, extensive and complex in-door hydroponics marihuana growing operation. The growing operation consisted of several rooms outfitted with commercial grade vented exhaust systems, tented growing stations, extensive in-door grow lighting and watering systems.

Sheriff's investigators seized in excess of $83,000 in cash located in the residence, in a local banking institution safety deposit box and in at least two bank accounts.

Seneca County Sheriff's Investigators seized sixty eight (68) marihuana plants at varying stages of growth, over seven (7) pounds of marihuana packaged for sale, over five pounds of marihuana precursors, all with a street value in excess of $40,000.00, brass knuckles, an electronic stun gun, a small quantity of cocaine and other illegal drugs and over $5,000.00 in marihuana growing equipment.

O'Malley was charged with Criminal Possession of Marijuana in the First degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree and Unlawfully Growing Cannabis without a license. O'Malley was arraigned in Town of Seneca Falls Court and committed to the Seneca County Correctional Facility in lieu of $40,000.00 cash or $80,000.00 secured bond. O'Malley is scheduled to reappear in Town of Seneca Falls Court on 01/13/2010.

The investigation is continuing and additional arrests are expected.

The case was investigated by Narcotics Investigator John Nesbit and Deputy James Conkey assisted by Investigator Kipp Goodman along with Sgt. Stevens, Deputies Altemari and Constable.