

# Man charged as 'mule' due in Harrison court over \$75G in OxyContin

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HARRISON - A Massachusetts man who, village police say, was found with the largest haul of illegal OxyContin tablets in county history will be in Town Court today.

Police said two clear plastic packages containing 1,519 pills of the narcotic pain killer were bulging from the large pockets in Antonio L. Santiago's cargo pants when officers pulled him over for erratic driving on the Hutchinson River Parkway Tuesday night.



Investigators called Santiago a drug mule who was on his way from the Bronx to Boston, where the pills - with a street value of about \$75,000 - were to be sold, police said.

Santiago, of Lawrence, Mass., was distracted by a Harrison police cruiser that had pulled up behind him near the northbound North Street exit, and had slowed his 2004 Acura TL to 40 mph in the left lane after sharply cutting off another driver at 11:30 p.m., police said.

He was gulping food out of nervousness when he was stopped, police said, and dropped change all over the road when police asked him what he had in his smaller pockets.

Santiago, 37, was charged with first-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, the highest-level felony charge, police said. He was being held without bail.

Lucien Chalfen, spokesman for the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, said that this was the largest catch of illegal OxyContin pills by either state or local law enforcement in the county that the office could recall.

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