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**42 CHARGED IN MAJOR DRUG SWEEP FOLLOWING UNDERCOVER  
INVESTIGATION AT FAR ROCKAWAY HOUSING COMPLEX**

*147 Undercover Drug Buys Made; Some Within 1,000 Feet of Public and Private Schools;  
Numerous Ziplock Bags of Marihuana, Crack Cocaine and Heroin Seized*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly and Special Agent-in-charge John P. Gilbride, of the New York Field Division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, announced today the indictment of 31 individuals and the filing of criminal charges against 11 others on drug-related charges as a result of a four-month undercover investigation at the Hammels Houses, a New York City Housing Authority complex in Far Rockaway, Queens.

The defendants – who range in age from 15 to 62 and include five alleged Bloods gang members and nine GIB (acronym for “Get It In Bricks”) gang members – are charged with selling crack and powdered cocaine, heroin, oxycodone and marihuana to undercover police officers on more than 140 separate occasions over a four-month period in and around the Hammels Houses. Sixteen of the defendants are charged with at least one count of selling drugs within a drug-free school zone. Several of the indicted individuals are presently being sought.

Queens District Attorney Brown said, “The result of this joint investigation should bring welcome relief to the many residents of the Hammels Houses and adjoining communities of Rockaway, who have been plagued by illegal drug trafficking in the lobbies and surrounding streets of their homes. Many of those charged are alleged to have gang affiliations and have been part of open-air and inside-the-lobby drug markets believed responsible for a number of recent narcotics-related shootings and murders in the area. All are alleged to have mistakenly thought that they were operating under wraps when they sold their illicit drugs to undercover officers close to their own homes or near schools. In fact, they were under investigation and marked for arrest, prosecution and long prison sentences.”

DEA Special Agent-in-charge Gilbride said, “Collectively, with our law enforcement partners, we identified, investigated and arrested dozens of individuals who were littering the Hammels Houses projects with crack, heroin and violence. This investigation resulted in eradicating the drugs and violence that were pervading this community and making this neighborhood a safe drug free zone.”

The investigation began in October 2006 following a series of meetings between residents of the Hammels Houses and the District Attorney’s Office and the NYPD. In response, police officers from the NYPD’s Queens Narcotics Division, backed up by agents of the Drug Enforcement Agency, were able to make a number of undercover narcotics buys and to conduct extensive physical surveillance which enabled District Attorney Brown’s Narcotics Investigations Bureau to obtain court authorization for six search warrants of known drug trafficking and stash locations. The undercover officers are alleged to have made 147 separate purchases of crack and powdered cocaine, heroin, oxycodone and marijuana from the defendants – many of which were made in close proximity to private and public school facilities – St. Rose of Lima, on Beach 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Christian Academy, on Beach 86<sup>th</sup> Street, and Hammels Child Care Center, on Rockaway Beach Boulevard – which adjoin the development.

In addition to the arrests this week, officers executed seven court-authorized search warrants and recovered two loaded semi-automatic pistols, ammunition and a bullet proof vest, as well additional quantities of crack cocaine, heroin and marijuana.

District Attorney Brown continued, “These arrests clearly underscore law enforcement’s collective commitment to ridding the streets of illegal drug gang activity and the violence that surrounds it and have struck a significant blow to the gang known as GIB, which has been in operation since 2005. Using strict and violent discipline they successfully ruled the crack cocaine trade in the Hammels Houses. Attempts by rival drug dealers to operate within their territory were often met with brutality and gunfire, endangering residents and visitors alike.”

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The Hammels Houses are part of the New York City Housing Authority's network of housing developments and consist of fourteen buildings, six- and seven-stories tall, in which nearly 2,000 people reside in 712 apartments. The nearly fifteen-acre complex was completed in 1955 and is bordered on the east and west by Beach 81<sup>st</sup> and Beach 86<sup>th</sup> Streets and Hammels and Rockaway Beach Boulevards on the north and south. It is among the older public housing developments in New York City.

The defendants are variously charged with numerous counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance In or Near School Grounds, both Class B felonies, each punishable by up to nine years in prison, Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Fourth Degree, a Class C felony punishable by up to five and a half years in prison, Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Fifth Degree, a Class D felony punishable by up to two and a half years in prison, and Criminal Sale of Marihuana in the Fourth Degree and Petit Larceny, both Class A misdemeanors, each punishable by up to one year in jail.

The investigation and arrests were carried out by Detective Michael DiMeglio and other Detectives of the New York City Police Departments Queens Narcotics Division under the command of Inspector Robert Napolitano, Special Agent Alexander Sosin of the D.E.A.'s New York Field Division, under the supervision of Special Agent-in-charge John Gilbride, and Assistant District Attorneys of the Queens County District Attorneys Office's Narcotics Investigations Bureau.

District Attorney Brown also expressed his appreciation to the New York City Housing Authority for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation.

Assistant District Attorneys Nicole Sharples and David Chiang of District Attorney Brown's Narcotics Investigations Bureau are prosecuting the cases under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Wilbert J. LeMelle, Chief, Karen J. Friedman, Deputy Chief, and Mark L. Katz, Supervisor, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

It should be noted that indictments and criminal complaints are merely accusations and that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)

Defendant Addendum

**INDICTMENTS**

Christopher Jones, 21, of 88-03 Rockaway Beach Boulevard. (Alleged GIB member)  
Troy Hynes, 35 of 17-36 Plainview Avenue.  
Joseph Nerys, 53, of 360 Beach 85<sup>th</sup> Street. (Allegedly sold near school)  
Laura Nerys, 41, of 360 Beach 85<sup>th</sup> Street. (Allegedly sold near school)  
Jose Ramirez, 26, of 131 Belmont Avenue in Brooklyn.  
Lamont Reeves, 21, of 82-03 Rockaway Beach Boulevard. (Alleged GIB member)  
Jaiquane Edmond, 22, of 85-02 Rockaway Beach Boulevard. (alleged Bloods member)  
Deborah Butler, 53, of 84-18 Rockaway Beach Boulevard. (Allegedly sold near school)  
Godreality Way, 28, of 82-03 Rockaway Beach Boulevard. (Alleged GIB member) (Allegedly sold near school)  
Dominique Barnes, 20, of 82-03 Rockaway Beach Boulevard. (Alleged GIB member)  
Adam Groves, 32, of 82-01 Rockaway Beach Boulevard.  
Anthony Groves, 27, 82-01 Rockaway Beach Boulevard. (Alleged GIB member)  
Juan Virola, 31, of 1003 Hartman Avenue in Far Rockaway.  
Victor Carrion, 36, of 1624 Parker Street in the Bronx.  
Corey Williams, 29, of 311 Beach 85<sup>th</sup> Street in Far Rockaway. (Alleged GIB member) (Allegedly sold near school)  
Marquis Black, 19, of 82-03 Hammels Blvd in Far Rockaway.  
Malik Miller, 27, of 81-03 Rockaway Beach Boulevard. (Allegedly sold near school)  
Rhonda Brooks, 44, of 80-02 Rockaway Beach Boulevard.  
James Ward, 32, of 84-18 Rockaway Beach Boulevard, Far Rockaway. (Allegedly sold near school)  
Raleek Brown, 20, of 14-30 Redfern Avenue.  
Jeffrey Goss, 42, of 85-01 Rockaway Beach Boulevard. (Allegedly sold near school)  
Cheryl Jones, 44, of 82-03 Rockaway Beach Boulevard. (Allegedly sold near school)  
Anthony Sansone, 36, of 30-77 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Astoria.

**CRIMINAL COURT COMPLAINTS**

Vernon Shaw, 58, of 84-16 Rockaway Beach Boulevard. (Allegedly sold near school)  
Cynthia Young, 43, of 82-01 Rockaway Beach Boulevard.  
Wesley Lee, 17, of 84-14 Rockaway Beach Boulevard. (Alleged Bloods member)  
Anthony Brown, 48, of 150-29 115<sup>th</sup> Avenue. (Allegedly sold near school)  
Daquan Coles, 26, of 80-02 Rockaway Beach Boulevard.  
Robert Reed, 62, of 82-01 Beach Channel Drive. (Allegedly sold near school)  
Kim Young, 37, of 84-12 Rockaway Beach Boulevard.  
Josaleen Blackmon-Vasquez, 84-14 Rockaway Beach Boulevard.  
Carnell Brooks, 23, of 123 Oak Street, Elmhurst.  
Larry Shell, Jr., 27, of 123 Oak Street, Elmhurst.  
Connie Cater, 48, of 81-01 Rockaway Beach Boulevard.

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