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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2007

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**FIFTY-TWO CHARGED IN CONTINUING ANTI-DRUG TRAFFICKING
AND DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE INITIATIVE IN FAR ROCKAWAY**

209 Undercover Drug Buys Made; Majority of Defendants Face Up to Nine Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, today announced the indictment of twenty-eight alleged drug dealers and the summary arrest of some two dozen others for selling drugs in and around the New York City Housing Authority's Redfern Houses and the privately owned Dix McBride Apartments, both in Far Rockaway. Forty-five of the individuals charged are in custody and the remaining seven individuals are being sought.

The defendants – who range in age from 17 to 54 and who include one purported member each of the Bloods and Crips street gangs – are charged with selling crack and powdered cocaine and marihuana to undercover police officers on more than 200 separate occasions over a seven-month period.

District Attorney Brown said, “This initiative – known as Redfern II – is another in our continuing campaign to stop the plague of drug-dealing and drug-based violence in the Far Rockaway section of Queens County. The quality of life of the residents of Far Rockaway has always been among my chief concerns as District Attorney. These arrests should put another dent in the drug trafficking and drug-related violence which has long plagued the residents of Far Rockaway. We will continue to work together with our police officers and our elected public officials and community leaders to keep the residents – and particularly the children – of Far Rockaway safe and to help provide them with a better quality of life.”

Commissioner Kelly said, “Our officers have persisted in returning time and again to areas where drug dealers have tried to gain a foothold. Whether it's Rockaway, or elsewhere; public housing or private, they have been steadfast in attacking the problem and making arrests. Their resolve helps explain why New York City continues to experience record declines in crime, bucking a national trend.”

District Attorney Brown added, “This is not alleged to be a well-organized group of drug dealers but an infestation of individual drug peddlers – some of whom worked together – who descended on the Redfern and Dix McBride Houses and who operated an open air drug market. Almost half of the defendants charged today live outside the two housing developments. Their only

purpose for coming to the developments is alleged to have been to sell their drugs. For years, the residents of these developments have been subjected to and held hostage by drug dealers and their customers who operated with impunity in the developments' courtyards – at times in full view of children. In fact, nearly one-quarter of the sales charged today allegedly occurred near a day care center attended by children between the ages of two and five. These brazen dealers mistakenly thought that they were operating under wraps when they allegedly sold their illicit drugs to undercover officers. In fact, however, they were under investigation and marked for arrest, prosecution and long prison sentences.”

The investigation commenced in January 2007 when detectives assigned to the NYPD's Queens Narcotics Division received information regarding drug dealers and drug-related violence around the Redfern Houses and the Dix McBride Apartments. In response, the NYPD's Queens Narcotics Division and District Attorney Brown's Narcotics Investigation Bureau dispatched numerous undercover officers to purchase crack and powdered cocaine and marijuana. During the course of the investigation, undercover officers purchased narcotics and marijuana on 209 separate occasions.

District Attorney Brown added that sixty of these alleged sales occurred near the Rockaway Child Care Center, a day care facility located at 14-66 Beach Channel Drive. The Center, which is operated by the City's Administration for Children's Services, cares for 45 children between the ages two and five. Fourteen of the forty-five defendants arrested are charged with selling drugs near school grounds.

Under the Trespass Notice Program, which is part of Mayor Bloomberg's Operation Safe Housing initiative which went into effect in January 2005, non-resident suspects arrested for drug dealing on public housing grounds receive a notice informing them that they are banned from New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) property anywhere in the City and will be arrested if they return. If the suspected drug dealer is a NYCHA resident, an eviction proceeding will commence and when completed, the dealer will be forced to leave his or her apartment. Of the forty-five defendants arrested today, eighteen have been charged with Trespass Affidavits and seven locations have been targeted for eviction proceedings.

District Attorney Brown noted that since January 2007, there have been eight individuals wounded in seven separate shooting-related incidents in and around the Redfern/Dix McBride area. One victim, Raquan Elliott, also known as “Stacks Bundles,” an aspiring rapper, was killed.

In addition to the arrests made yesterday, officers executed nine court-authorized search warrants and recovered two loaded handguns, two air rifles, a gravity knife, various quantities of cocaine and marijuana and assorted drug paraphernalia, including four crack pipes.

The Redfern Houses, located at 14-60 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway, is part of the New York City Housing Authority's network of housing developments. Redfern Houses was completed in 1959 and consists of nine buildings, six- and seven- stories tall, that house approximately 1660 residents in 602 apartments. The Dix McBride Apartments, which is a privately owned building complex, are located at 2229-2259 Dix Avenue in Far Rockaway and were built in 1998.

The defendants are variously charged with numerous counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a Class B felony punishable by up to nine years in prison; Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a Class C felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison; Criminal Sale of Marihuana in the Fourth Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia and Obstructing Governmental Administration, a Class A misdemeanors punishable by up to one year in jail, and Unlawful Possession of Marihuana and Disorderly Conduct, violations punishable by a fine of up to \$100.

The investigation was conducted by detectives of the New York City Police Department's Queens Narcotics Division under the command of Inspector Robert Napolitano, including Detectives Keith Dietrich and Frank Blier, under the supervision of Lieutenant Brian Kelly and Captain Thomas Marren, under the overall supervision of Deputy Chief James O'Neil, Commanding Officer of the Narcotics Division, and Chief Anthony Izzo, Commanding Officer, Organized Crime Control Bureau.

The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Julie S. Trivedi and Milton Yu of the District Attorney's Narcotics Investigation Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Wilbert J. LeMelle, Bureau Chief, Karen J. Friedman, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Mark L. Katz, Supervisor, and the overall supervision of Executive 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

ADDENDUM - 45 DEFENDANTS ARRESTED

(NOTE: Unless noted by an asterisk (*) the top count against the defendant is third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance, a Class B felony punishable by up to nine years in prison. An asterisk (*) indicates the top charge is a misdemeanor. A double asterisk (**) indicates that the defendant is charged with both third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance (Class B felony) and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon, a Class C felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

1. * Denin Arce, 29, of 1478 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway.
2. * Keith Ashley, 40, of 14-60 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway.
3. * Thomas Bailey, 45, of 14-76 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway.
4. * Martina Bigelow, 39, 22-29 Dix Avenue in Queens.
5. * Dorothea Boyd, 43, 22-59 Dix Avenue in Far Rockaway.
6. Angie Bradford, 42, lives at 14-76 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway.
7. Esau Brit, 49, 14-32 Pinson Street in Far Rockaway.
8. Robert Burtis, 54, lives at 14-76 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway.
9. ** John Campbell, 38, 11-01 McBride Street in Far Rockaway.
10. * Branden Carter, 24, 10-1027 Deliact, Queens, New York.
11. David Colon, 47, 390 9th Avenue in Manhattan.
12. ** Sharmarlay Creque, 22, 12-13 Nielson Street in Far Rockaway.
13. ** Shante Davis, 19, 22-51 Dix Avenue in Far Rockaway.
14. ** Theresa Davis, 38, 265 Fernside Place in Far Rockaway.
15. * Renee Douglas, 46, of 313 86th Street in Brooklyn.
16. * Tommy Graham, 53, of 14-76 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway.

17. Shireleen Green, 38, 15-40 Hassock Street in Far Rockaway.
18. Kevin Harvey, 40, of 15-30 Hassock Street in Far Rockaway.
19. Andre Headley, 23, 14-68 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway.
20. * Jalila Hogan, 22, of 14-78 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway.
21. Eric Hughes, 37, 14-72 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway.
22. Ida Johnson (information unavailable)
23. Rauwshan Johnson, 26, 51-45 Alameda Ave in Far Rockaway and is purported to be a Bloods gang member.
24. Barbara Labady, 21, 991 Hancock Street in Far Rockaway.
25. Torri McCaw, 43 14-76 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway.
26. * Sheldon McIver, 44, 473 Christophre Avenue in Brooklyn.
27. * Anthony McKellar, 41, 22-88 Mott Avenue in Queens.
28. * Devone Meadows, 20, 16 Scott Gedal, Queens, New York.
29. Malcolm Milton, 18, 15-30 Hancock Street in Far Rockaway.
30. * Betty Moore, 44, of 12-10 Redfern Avenue in Far Rockaway
31. Lorraine Padgette, aka Lauren Holmes (information unavailable)
32. * Tawana Pedlar, 45, 250 Beach 15th Street in Far Rockaway.
33. * Oheem Rabsatt, 26, 12-13 Nielson Street in Far Rockaway.
34. * Marcus Raiford, 18, 86 Elliot Place in Queens.
35. ** Brian Rogers, 38, 22-51 Dix Avenue in Far Rockaway.
36. Andre Samuda, 20, 29-44 Bayswater Avenue in Far Rockaway.
37. Dante Stanly, 17, of 249 Beach 15th Street in Far Rockaway and is purported to be a Crips gang member.
38. * Tiffany Stanley, 19, 145-16 243rd Street in Queens.
39. * Isaiah Summers, 18, 1035 Beach 32nd Street in Far Rockaway.
40. Vincent Thomas, 47, 12-50 Redfern Avenue in Far Rockaway.
41. * Daniel Torbio, 26 of 15-50 Hassock Street in Far Rockaway.
42. Pia Turner, 35, 15-30 Hassock Street in Far Rockaway.
43. *Ayana Wise, 25, of 15-40 Hassock Street in Far Rockaway.
44. * Shahene Wise, 45, 15-40 Hassock Street in Far Rockaway.
45. Monica Zeigler, 45, 13-73 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway.