



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY**
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000

Release # 71-2009
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009

CONTACT: QDA PRESS OFFICE
718-286-6315

NYPD/DCPI
646-610-6700

**25 INDIVIDUALS CHARGED IN MAJOR DRUG SWEEP FOLLOWING
UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION AT FAR ROCKAWAY HOUSING COMPLEXES**

47 Undercover Drug Buys Made; Some Within Drug-Free School Zone

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly today announced the arrest of 25 individuals on a variety of drug-related charges as part of a large scale undercover narcotics investigation at three Far Rockaway housing complexes: the Ocean Bay Houses, the Beach 41th Street Houses and the Ocean Village development.

The defendants – who range in age from 19 to 48 – are charged with selling powdered and crack cocaine, heroin and marijuana to undercover police officers on nearly 50 separate occasions over a five-month period in and around the housing complexes. Three of the defendants are charged with at least one count of selling drugs within a drug-free school zone.

Queens District Attorney Brown said, “We anticipate that these arrests will put a significant dent in the drug trafficking and drug-related violence that has long plagued the area. These individuals are alleged to have operated with near impunity – selling drugs close to their own homes, while a seemingly defiant few are alleged to have sold their products near a public school. All mistakenly thought that they were operating under wraps when they allegedly sold their illicit drugs to undercover officers. In fact, they were under investigation and marked for arrest, prosecution and long prison sentences.”

Commissioner Kelly said, “These arrests are important because of the inescapable nexus between drug trafficking and violence, in addition to all of the other misery inflicted by illegal drugs. We keep New York safe, in part, by keeping the pressure on drug dealers. I commend the police officers and Queens prosecutors for their continued success in combating this threat to public safety.”

The investigation began in October 2008 when detectives assigned to the NYPD’s Queens Narcotics Division received information that drug dealers were engaged in operations around the housing complexes. 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, heroin and marijuana. During the course of the investigation, undercover officers purchased narcotics on nearly 50 separate occasions.

-more-

In addition to the arrests, officers executed five court-authorized search warrants and recovered various amounts of cocaine, marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Among those arrested were Norma Brown, 48, of 54-09 Alameda Avenue, who allegedly sold cocaine and marijuana to undercover officers on four separate occasions between October 16, 2008, and November 15, 2008, from her sixth-floor apartment in the Ocean Bay complex, and Arthur Jenkins, 33, of 125 Beach 17th Street in Far Rockaway, for allegedly selling heroin to an undercover officer near the Golden Maple Academy (MS 333), located on Beach 57th Street and Beach Channel Drive on November 12, 2008.

The Ocean Bay Houses, located at 54-81 Alameda Avenue in Far Rockaway, and the Beach 41st Street - Beach Channel Drive Houses, located at 40-20 Beach Channel Drive, are part of the New York City Housing Authority's network of housing developments. The Ocean Bay Houses were completed in 1961 and consist of twenty-four buildings, 7- and 9-stories tall, in which 3,369 people reside in 1,394 apartments. The Beach 41st Street Houses were completed in 1973 and consist of four 13-story buildings in which 1,733 people reside in 712 apartments. Ocean Village, located at 57-17 Shore Front Parkway, is a private housing complex built in 1971 by the New York State Urban Development Corporation. The complex consists of 11 buildings that house 1,100 families.

The defendants are variously charged with 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, 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 was conducted by detectives assigned to the New York City Police Department's Queens Narcotics Division under the command of Inspector Robert Napolitano, including Detectives Joseph Callahan and Joseph Dunne under the supervision of Sergeant Michael Grizzard, Lieutenant Christopher Coll and Captain Thomas Marren, and under the overall supervision of Assistant Deputy Chief Joseph Resnik, Executive Officer, 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 Ajay D. Chheda, of the District Attorney's Narcotics Investigation Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Wilbert J. LeMelle, Bureau Chief, and Karen J. Friedman, Deputy Bureau Chief, 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 criminal complaints are merely accusations and that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

#

See Addendum on next page for list of defendants

ADDENDUM

SUMMARY MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS (5)

Kevin Davis, 19, of 71-15 Beach Channel Drive in Arverne. *

Landis Davis, Jr., 37, of 441 Beach 51st Street in Far Rockaway.

Robert Rhodes, 24, of 51-32 Beach Channel Drive in Arverne.

Christopher Suarez, 25, of 528 Beach 72nd Street in Far Rockaway. **

Shawn Williams, 19, of 411 Beach 54th Street in Far Rockaway.

MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS ON SEARCH WARRANTS (9)

Dixie Adams, of 411 Beach 54th Street in Far Rockaway.

Greg Drayton, of 411 Beach 54th Street in Far Rockaway.

Mynia Hendricks, of 57-07 Shore Front Parkway in Far Rockaway.

Gregory Hermonstyne, of 146 Beach 59th Street in Far Rockaway.

Kelvin Kinnison, of 453 Beach 40th Street in Far Rockaway.

Michelle Lloyd, of 146 Beach 59th Street in Far Rockaway.

Janeda Marcelle, of 411 Beach 54th Street in Far Rockaway.

Shakira Mobley, of 453 Beach 40th Street in Far Rockaway.

Abel Padilla, of 453 Beach 40th Street in Far Rockaway.

FELONY ARRESTS (11)

Edward Allen, 34, of 616 Beach 67th Street in Far Rockaway.

Norma Brown, 48, of 54-09 Alameda Avenue in Far Rockaway

Tadfarro Brown, 39, of 54-09 Alameda Avenue in Far Rockaway.

Angelica Feria, 29, of 411 Beach 54th Street in Far Rockaway ***

Arthur Jenkins, 33, of 125 Beach 17th Street in Far Rockaway. ***

Robert Lawson, 17, of 444 Beach 54th Street in Far Rockaway.

Anthony Martin, 23, of 636 Beach 67th Street in Far Rockaway.

Lisa Moore, 39, of 601 Beach 69th Street in Far Rockaway.

Devon Stearns, 36, of 441 Beach 51st Street in Far Rockaway. ***

Donna Vickers, 40, of 124 Beach 59th Street in Far Rockaway.

Lachae Vickers, 23, of 409 Beach 51st Street in Far Rockaway.

* Alleged Crip member

** Alleged Lost Boys member

*** Allegedly sold drugs within a drug-free school zone.

Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org