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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**54 CHARGED IN QUEENSBRIDGE HOUSES DRUG SWEEP**  
**FOLLOWING SIX-MONTH UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION**  
**AT LONG ISLAND CITY COMPLEX**

*197 Undercover Drug Buys Made, Including 110 Buys Made Within 1,000 Feet of a School;  
Defendants Face Up To Nine Years in Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown and Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly announced today the indictment of 36 individuals and the filing of criminal charges against 18 others on drug and gun-related charges following a six-month undercover investigation at the Queensbridge Houses, a New York City Housing Authority complex in Long Island City, Queens. Fifty-four individuals have been arrested and an additional 25 are being sought.

The defendants – who range in age from 17 to 68 – are charged with selling cocaine, heroin and marijuana to undercover police officers on 197 separate occasions over a six-month period in and around the Queensbridge Houses. In addition, it is charged that undercover officers purchased two 9mm handguns, a .38 caliber revolver and a ballistic vest. Cocaine valued at \$22,220, heroin valued at \$6,890 and marijuana valued at \$2,035, were purchased.

The Queensbridge Houses, which was completed in 1940 and is managed by the New York City Housing Authority, is the nation's largest public housing complex with approximately 3,142 apartments in 26 six-story buildings on more than 49 acres in Long Island City. The Queensbridge Houses is home to approximately 6,907 low to moderate-income residents.

Queens District Attorney Brown said, "This initiative is yet another step in our continuing campaign to stop drug-dealing and drug-based violence in public housing complexes. These arrests underscore our commitment to continue to work to improve the quality of life for the residents of the Queensbridge Houses. The result of this joint investigation should be a welcome relief to the many residents of the Queensbridge Houses who have been plagued with illegal drug trafficking near their homes and schools."

Commissioner Kelly said, "The nexus between illegal drugs and violence is inescapable, and the Police Department is committed to suppressing both in Queens and wherever they occur to jeopardize the public safety."

District Attorney Brown added, "Through the use of various investigative techniques, including undercover police officers posing as narcotics customers, our investigation has identified three separate drug organizations operating out of the Queensbridge Houses. One of the defendants is accused along with his mother and brother of running a one-stop shop offering cocaine, heroin, marijuana and firearms for sale. These brazen drug dealers mistakenly thought that they were operating under wraps. In fact, however, they were under investigation and marked for arrest and prosecution."

The investigation began in June 2008 when the office of the Queens District Attorney's Narcotics Investigations Bureau together with the New York City Police Department's Narcotics Borough Queens began the investigation with the goal of identifying the narcotics trafficking organizations operating in the Queensbridge Houses and to apprehend their members and associates.

District Attorney Brown added that 110 of the drug sales occurred on the grounds of the Western Queens Nursery School located at 10-26 41<sup>st</sup> Street.

Under the City's Trespass Notice Program – which is part of Mayor Bloomberg's Operation Safe Housing initiative and 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 resident of the development he will be targeted for eviction.

In addition to the arrests made today, officers executed 13 court-authorized search warrants.

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 Marijuana in the Fourth Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, and Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia, Class A misdemeanors punishable by up to one year in jail; and Unlawful Possession of Marijuana and Disorderly Conducts, violations punishable by a fine of up to \$100.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Timothy Downing and Detective Kenneth Rice of the New York City Police Department's Narcotics Borough Queens under the supervision of Sergeant John Steneck, Lieutenant Christopher Thomas, Captain Christopher Morello and Captain Michael Vanchieri, under the command of Inspector Robert Napolitano, and under the overall supervision of Assistant Chief Joseph Reznick, Commanding Officer of the Narcotics Division, and Chief Anthony Izzo, Commanding Officer, Organized Crime Control Bureau.

In addition, the investigation was assisted by members of the New York City Police Department's PSA-9 unit, in particular, Sergeant James McGovern, Field Intelligence Officer.

Assistant District Attorney Milton Yu of the District Attorney's Narcotics Investigations Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Wilbert J. LeMelle, Bureau Chief, Karen J. Friedman, Deputy Bureau Chief, 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

Rachel Adamson, 22, 26-98 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New York, N.Y.  
Derrick Aikens, 28, 41-02 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sandra Aikens, 48, 40-12 Vernon Boulevard  
Eunice Arroyo, 44, 41-09 Vernon Boulevard  
Shawn Alonso, 23, address unavailable  
Rosemary Diane Bagos, 53, 35-48 Steinway Street  
Eleanor Barker, 44, 40-01 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Nakisha Barr, 29, 41-15 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Troy Battle, 35, address unavailable  
Roderick Beene, 36, address unavailable  
Xavier Blount, 20, address unavailable  
Chayrmar Brown, 48, 40-01 Vernon Boulevard  
Warren Brown, 31, address unavailable  
Takia Burke, 24, 34-04 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Theresa Chisolm, 47, address unavailable  
Andrew Coleman, 18, 41-01 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Joshua Cushnie, 20, 41-08 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Yvette Cushnie, 28, address unavailable  
Richard Dixon, 68, 40-12 Vernon Boulevard  
Nadine Faussett, 47, address unavailable  
Courtney Giddins, 27, 1 Agate Court, Brooklyn  
Efrain Gonzales, 27, address unavailable  
Anteney Helene, 44, address unavailable  
Eugene Jackson, 60, address unavailable  
Magret Jaime, 17, address unavailable  
Robert James, 33, 41-05 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
William Jones, 43, address unavailable  
Anthony Kennedy, 45, address unavailable  
Erica Knox, 42, 60 Fleetwalk, Brooklyn  
Karen Lewis, 58, 40-06 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Baynard Lachersa, 33, address unavailable  
Belton Long, 47, address unavailable  
Ieisha McClain, 24, address unavailable  
Debra Mendoza, 38, 40-11 10<sup>th</sup> Street

Darnell Orr, 24, 40-11 Vernon Boulevard  
Randolph Ortiz, 21, 40-10 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kenya Pearson, 28, address unavailable  
Stanley Ray, 42, 116-33 146<sup>th</sup> Street

Michael Redfern, 55, address unavailable  
Sonia Rodriguez, 43, address unavailable  
Yasheeya Saunders, 22, address unavailable  
Shamar Stallworth, 23, 20-06 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Raymond Tate, 46, 40-11 Vernon Boulevard  
David Taylor, 20, 41-14 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gianna Towner, 23, address unavailable  
Terrence Townsend, 47, address unavailable  
Aljabar Walker, 27, address unavailable  
Andrea Waters, 42, 41-06 Vernon Boulevard  
Messiah Watson, 26, 40-01 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richard Whitmore, 41, address unavailable  
Tay Wilson, 52, address unavailable  
Alfred Womack, 58, address unavailable