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THIRTY-SEVEN CHARGED IN DRUG SWEEP
FOLLOWING TWO-YEAR UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION

*Scores of Undercover Drug Buys Allegedly Made, Including Ecstasy, Vicodin and Oxycodone;
A Whitestone Mother and Her Three Children, Astoria Club Owner Among Those Charged*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, announced today the filing of criminal charges against two sprawling, loosely-knit groups comprised of thirty-seven individuals for allegedly selling Ecstasy, Vicodin, Oxycodone, Suboxone, and other highly addictive pharmaceuticals, as well as marihuana, throughout Queens.

As part of today's arrests, officers executed eight court-authorized search warrants and recovered three loaded handguns, large quantities of marihuana, Ecstasy, Vicodin, Suboxone, and approximately \$20,000 in cash.

Queens District Attorney Brown said, "The drugs in which the defendants are alleged to have trafficked in are popular with club patrons despite the fact that they pose serious health risks. We have seen a huge rise in the use and abuse of prescription painkillers. Drugs such as Vicodin and Oxycodone are extremely potent and have a high potential for abuse and death. Customers, in this case, were allegedly steered to different dealers – depending on the drug requested. Today's arrests not only cut off the suppliers of these drugs, but the distributors as well."

Commissioner Kelly said, "The combination of drugs and guns is a clear prescription for violence. Investigators today recovered firearms along with high-end pharmaceuticals and large quantities of marihuana, in addition to a veritable pharmacy of painkillers and other narcotics that were purchased during dangerous undercover operations. I commend the men and women of the NYPD Queens Narcotics Borough and the members of the District Attorney's office for their comprehensive coverage of this prolific network of drug dealers."

The twenty-eight defendants charged in the indictment were arrested beginning this morning and are expected to be arraigned in Queens Supreme Court in Kew Gardens tomorrow. Nine additional defendants charged in criminal complaints were also arrested today and are being held pending arraignment in Queens Criminal Court. The defendants are variously charged with numerous counts of criminal sale of a controlled substance, criminal possession of a controlled substance, criminal sale of marihuana, criminal possession of marihuana, conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the investigation, known as "Operation Bad Medicine," began in June 2008 when an undercover detective learned that various illegal drugs were available for sale at a bar known as Mix Café + Lounge, located at 40-17 30th Avenue in Astoria, Queens.

One of the club's owners, Javier Leon, 42, is accused of selling the undercover officer 80 Vicodin pills for \$500 and \$1,400 worth of cocaine from his Long Island City apartment in 2009. Bartender Stefan Sweeting, 27, is accused of selling Ecstasy and marihuana to undercover officers in the club on four separate occasions in 2009 and early 2010.

It is further alleged that Leon introduced undercover officers to Hi Kim, 27, reputed to be a main distributor for one of the groups and who is alleged to have sold thousands of Ecstasy pills to undercover officers, as well as scores of other illegal drugs – including Ketamine, Oxycodone, Vicodin, Aderall, Codeine and marihuana. Two of Kim's roommates – Matheus Ottoni, 24, and Rafael Ottoni, 28 – are also charged in the indictment. Another cohort of Kim's, John Congemi, 24, is accused of selling Oxycodone and Vicodin to an undercover officer, and being the link between Kim's group and a second group, an alleged retail pharmaceutical drug distribution family, that included three siblings whose mother is charged with facilitation.

It is alleged that a member of this family, Christopher Olsen, 26, was an illegal distributor of pharmaceuticals – including Xanax, Oxycodone and Suboxone – who sold to undercover detectives out of the Whitestone house he shared with his brother, Sean Olsen, 23, and his sister, Elizabeth Olsen, 16, both of whom are also charged with selling to undercover officers. Finally, their mother, Kathleen Olsen, 56, who also lives at the same address, is charged with criminal facilitation.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Bryan Zuccaro and John Bulone, of the Queens Narcotics Squad, under the supervision of Sergeant Terrance Curran, Lieutenant Christopher Thomas, Captain Christopher Morello and Inspector Michael E. Bryan, 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.

Assistant District Attorney Philip D. Anderson, Supervisor of the District Attorney's Narcotics Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case 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 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

DEFENDANT ADDENDUM

Christina Bova, 22, of 149-43 23rd Avenue, in Flushing, is charged with fourth- and fifth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. She faces up to 5 ½ years in prison if convicted.

Carmelo Caminiti, 27, of 20-16 149th Street, in Whitestone, is charged with fourth- and fifth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 5 ½ years in prison if convicted.

Alexander Castro, 21, of 89-04 69th Avenue, in Forest Hills, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 9 years in prison if convicted.

John Congemi, 24, of 89-03 69th Avenue, in Forest Hills, is charged with third- and fourth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 9 years in prison if convicted.

Leonardo Costa, of 25-60 36th Street, in Astoria, is charged with fifth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 2 ½ years in prison if convicted.

Stephen DiMunzio, 34, of 532 Chews Landing, in Haddenfield, New Jersey, is charged with fourth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 5 ½ years in prison if convicted.

Alexander Eksarkos, 27, of 22-26 47th Street, in Astoria, is charged with second- and fifth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance and second-degree conspiracy. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

William Grimando, 50, of 145-72 5th is charged with first-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance and third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Athena Karaboulis, 20, of 196-41 45th Avenue, in Bayside, is first- and fifth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Javier Leon, 42, of 43-08 30th Avenue, in Astoria, is charged with second- and fourth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Hi Kim, 27, of 19-39 77th Street, in Sunnyside, is charged with second-, third-, fourth and fifth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance, fourth-degree criminal sale of marihuana, and second-degree conspiracy. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Felix Luna, 33, of 49-12 103rd Street, in Corona, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 9 years in prison if convicted.

Robert McLaughlin, 26, of 51-01 39th Avenue, in Astoria, is charged with third- and fourth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 9 years in prison if convicted.

Richard Molina, 27, of 162-08 84th Street, in Howard Beach, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 9 years in prison if convicted.

Jesse Montanaro, 23, of 1705 East 33rd Street, in Brooklyn, is charged with first-, second-, third, fourth- and fifth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Pedro Naveda, , 32, of 137-60 45th Avenue, in Flushing, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 9 years in prison if convicted.

Christopher Olsen, 26, of 22-34 Parsons Boulevard, in Flushing, is charged first-, second-, third-, fourth- and fifth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Elizabeth Olsen, 16, of 22-34 Parsons Boulevard, in Whitestone, is charged with third- and fourth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. She faces up to 9 years in prison if convicted.

Kathleen Olsen, 56, of 22-34 Parsons Boulevard, in Whitestone, is charged with second-degree criminal facilitation. She faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Sean Olsen, 23, of 22-34 Parsons Boulevard, in Whitestone, is charged with second- and fifth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Matheus Ottoni, 24, of 19-39 77th Street, in Sunnyside, is charged with second-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Rafael Ottoni, 28, of 19-39 77th Street, in Sunnyside, is charged with second-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance and third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

John Papas, 25, of 38-31 212th Street, in Bayside, is charged with first-, third-, fourth- and fifth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Roman Pelech, 23, (address unavailable) is charged with second-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Donato Pinto, 25, of 20-44 150th Street, in Whitestone, is charged with first- and second-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance and third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Michael Pizzo, 23, (address unavailable) is charged with fifth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 2 ½ years in prison if convicted.

Steven Riccobono, 24, (address unavailable) is charged with second- and third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Bill Schinakis, 36, of 41-17 21st Avenue, in Astoria, is charged with fourth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 5 ½ years in prison if convicted.

Vincent Susca, 26, of 23-44 91st Street, in Jackson Heights, is charged with second-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance, third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and second-degree conspiracy. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Stefan Sweeting, 27, of 102-09 Metropolitan Avenue, in Forest Hills, is charged with fourth-degree criminal sale of marihuana and fifth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He faces up to 2 ½ years in prison.

Evaggelos Tsiboukas, 20, of 20-15 Shore Boulevard, in Astoria, is charged with second-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance, third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and second-degree conspiracy. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Seven additional defendants are also being sought.