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**TEN-MONTH INVESTIGATION OF QUEENS GANG MEMBERS**  
**RESULTS IN DRUG AND GUN CHARGES AGAINST 22 INDIVIDUALS**

*Defendants Include 19 Purported Bloods Members And Associates  
And Include Reputed Leader of Violent Street Gang*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown and Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly today announced that nearly two dozen individuals have been arrested on drug, weapons and other charges as part of a large-scale investigation focused on narcotics and firearms trafficking activities allegedly engaged in by a faction of the Bloods street gang based in the Hollis section of Queens County. Among those arrested over the course of the 10-month investigation were 19 purported Bloods members and associates – including the alleged faction leader and his wife – and a retired City Corrections Officer.

In addition, information developed during the course of the investigation has led to arrests with respect to two homicides and a pattern robbery, and the seizure of eight guns and a shotgun, a kilo and a half of cocaine, ten pounds of marijuana and approximately \$15,000 in narcotics proceeds.

District Attorney Brown said, “This investigation is another example of police and prosecutors working together to reduce drug dealing and gang-based violence that too often plagues our neighborhoods. We are committed to continue to employ aggressive and innovative tactics to track down and prosecute drug dealers, weapons traffickers, violent gang members and other criminals who seek to terrorize our communities. It is imperative that we stop those who would flood our streets with drugs and gun violence and lure our children into lives of crime.”

Commissioner Kelly said, “New York is fortunate in that it does not have the level of gang membership and activity that has plagued other cities. Nevertheless, we pay attention and take action when violence and other crimes committed by gang members erupt. The police and prosecutors are to be commended for their vigilance.”

The investigation, known as “Operation Pots and Pans,” commenced in October 2007 when NYPD officers assigned to the Queens Gang Squad and District Attorney Brown’s Narcotics Investigations Bureau began to focus resources on the alleged drug and gun trafficking network linked to the Hollis faction of the Bloods street gang. The term “Pots and Pans” is allegedly the slang term used by this faction when referring to handguns.

Over the course of the investigation – which included extensive physical surveillance, court-authorized eavesdropping and search warrants – twenty-two individuals have been charged with narcotics and weapons possession – including possession of cocaine, marijuana, revolvers, semi-automatic handguns and shotguns. Gang members allegedly distributed large amounts of narcotics to numerous street dealers who, in turn, sold the narcotics to the organization's customers – who were typically drug addicts. It is alleged that the organization grossed more than \$5,000 per week through its illegal operations and was supplying drugs to various Bloods members in North Carolina.

Among those arrested was alleged Bloods leader Benjamin (a.k.a. Dark) Dunn. According to the charges, a search warrant was executed on Dunn's residence on February 6, 2008, and police recovered more than two pounds of marijuana and two defaced guns from a bedroom drawer – a Titan .25 caliber semi-automatic pistol containing a magazine with seven live rounds and a loaded 9mm Jimenez semi-automatic pistol with a magazine containing twelve rounds of ammunition. Both weapons allegedly had their serial numbers scratched off. Both Dunn and his wife, Darice Dunn, were charged with weapons and drug possession. .

Also charged in the investigation were brothers Ontarris and Thomas Armstrong and Henderick Evans and Thomas Pitts, all of Halifax County, North Carolina, based upon information developed during the investigation which allegedly revealed that Bloods members were driving up from the south to New York to buy drugs. According to the charges, Thomas Armstrong was stopped for a traffic infraction in Hollis, Queens, on January 17, 2008. Also in the car was his brother Ontarris and defendants Evans and Pitts. At the time, police allegedly observed a bag containing 1.3 ounces of cocaine in the back seat and recovered more than six pounds of marijuana from the trunk and six ziplock bags of marijuana from the shirt pocket of defendant Ontarris Armstrong.

In another case, it is charged, information was developed during the investigation that retired City Corrections Officer Adolph Porter and Kevin Kimbrough were storing cocaine inside their Jamaica, Queens, residence. On July 17, 2008, a search warrant was executed at the residence and police allegedly recovered twenty plastic bags of cocaine, a shotgun, a 9mm pistol (Porter's off-duty weapon), boxes of ammunition and a magazine containing several live rounds.

In addition to drug and weapons charges, Benjamin Dunn was also charged as a result of the investigation in the fatal stabbing of Persian Gulf War veteran Henry G. Fraiser, 40, on the night of May 10, 2008, during an alleged dispute over an NBA playoff game. The incident occurred outside Frasier's cousin's house, located at 110-15 207<sup>th</sup> Street in Hollis, Queens.

The investigation also led to the apprehension of alleged Crips gang member Jaivon Chisolm, for the shooting death of Mark Arrington, 23, of St. Albans, on November 14, 2007, resulting from the rivalry between the Bloods and the Crips gangs. Chisolm pleaded guilty last month to first-degree manslaughter and was sentenced earlier this week to nineteen years in state prison.

Finally, information obtained during the investigation led to the arrest of Rise Adams, 21, on February 14, 2008. According to the charges, the defendant participated in a series of street robberies in Hollis and Jamaica during the first two weeks of February 2008. Adams pleaded guilty to fourth-degree grand larceny and is presently awaiting sentencing.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Richard Zaccarese, Rafael Ramos and Edward Rourke, Sergeant Andrew Puglisi, and Lieutenant Gerald Pizzano, of the New York Police Department's Queens Gang Squad, under the supervision of Captain Richard Dee, Commanding Officer, and under the overall supervision of Deputy Chief Robert Boyce, Commanding Officer of the NYPD's Gang Division.

Assistant District Attorney Julie S. Trivedi, of the District Attorney Brown's Narcotics Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the cases under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Wilbert J. LeMelle, Bureau Chief, Karen J. Friedman, Deputy Bureau 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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**SEE ATTACHED ADDENDUM FOR DETAILS ON EACH DEFENDANT.**

## **ADDENDUM**

### **ALLEGED BLOODS MEMBERS (12)**

**Rise Adams**, 21, of 199-14 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Hollis, Queens, was arrested on February 14, 2008, and charged with second-degree robbery, fourth-degree grand larceny and fifth-degree criminal possession of stolen property. Adams pleaded guilty to fourth-degree grand larceny on May 28, 2008, and is presently awaiting sentencing.

**Ontarris Armstrong**, 20, of 213 House Street in Enfield, North Carolina, was arrested on January 17, 2008, and charged with second- and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. Armstrong pleaded guilty on May 21, 2008 to disorderly conduct and was sentenced to a conditional discharge.

**Thomas Armstrong**, 24, of 504 Martin Luther King Avenue in Enfield, North Carolina, was arrested on January 17, 2008, and charged with second- and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and four violations of the vehicle and traffic laws. (driving by an unlicensed operator, third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, entering stop or yield intersection, and turning movements and required signals). Armstrong pleaded guilty on May 21, 2008, to fourth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, a Class C felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison, and is awaiting sentencing.

**Sidney Briggs**, 19, of 108-10 221<sup>st</sup> Street in Queens Village, Queens, was arrested on July 2, 2008, and charged with second-degree criminal possession of a weapon, third-degree criminal sale of a firearm and fourth- and fifth-degree conspiracy. The case is presently pending. Allegedly recovered was a 9mm handgun loaded with twelve live rounds.

**Brittney Davis**, 19, of 211-40 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Queens Village, Queens, was arrested on May 23, 2008, and charged with third-degree criminal possession of a weapon. The case is presently pending. Allegedly recovered was a 9mm defaced Ruger pistol and eight rounds of ammunition from the defendant and defendant Joseph Felton.

**Benjamin Lavar Dunn**, 30, of 110-34 207<sup>th</sup> Street in Queens Village, Queens, is the purported leader of the Bloods street gang in the Hollis and Jamaica sections of Queens. Dunn was arrested on June 5, 2008, and charged with second- and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon and second-degree criminal possession of marihuana. The case is presently pending. Among the items allegedly recovered were a loaded 25 caliber Titan pistol, a magazine with seven rounds of ammunition, a loaded 9mm Jimenez pistol and a magazine with twelve rounds of ammunition.

Dunn was also arrested on May 30, 2008, and charged with first-degree manslaughter, second-degree assault, and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon for the fatal stabbing of Henry G. Fraiser on May 10, 2008.

**Darice Dunn**, 28, of 110-34 207<sup>th</sup> Street in Queens Village, Queens, is the wife of purported Bloods leader Benjamin Dunn. Darice Dunn was arrested on June 5, 2008, and charged with second- and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon and second-degree criminal possession of marihuana. The case is presently pending.

**Gabriel Eldridge**, 23, of 1 West Fairview Avenue in Valley Stream, Long Island, was arrested on June 4, 2008, and charged with second- and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, fifth-degree criminal possession of marihuana and a violation of the vehicle and traffic laws (turning movements and required signals).

Eldridge was also arrested on July 23, 2008, and charged with first- and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, second-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance, second-degree conspiracy, criminal sale of a controlled substance in or near school grounds, second-degree recklessly endangerment, second-degree criminally using drug paraphernalia and violation of the New York City Administrative Code (firearms/ammunition/authorized pistol or revolver/different ammunition). The cases are presently pending.

**Alexandria Martin**, 20, of 1 West Fairview Avenue in Valley Stream, Long Island, was arrested on July 23, 2008, and charged with first- and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, second-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance, second-degree conspiracy, criminal sale of a controlled substance in or near school grounds, second-degree recklessly endangerment, second-degree criminally using drug paraphernalia and violation of the New York City Administrative Code (firearms/ammunition/authorized pistol or revolver/different ammunition). The case is presently pending.

**Thomas Pitt**, 18, of 8052 Watson Seed Farm Road in Enfield, North Carolina, was arrested on January 17, 2008, and charged with second- and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. Pitt pleaded guilty on May 21, 2008 to disorderly conduct and was sentenced to a conditional discharge.

**Franklyn G. Samuels**, 28, of 158-17 Linden Boulevard in Jamaica, Queens, was arrested on February 5, 2008, and charged with third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and a violation of the vehicle and traffic laws (failed to stop for stop sign). The case is presently pending.

**Philip Sanders**, 29, of 109-19 205<sup>th</sup> Place in Hollis, Queens, was arrested on January 8, 2008 and charged with third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, second-degree criminally using drug paraphernalia and unlawful possession of marihuana. Sanders pleaded guilty on May 21, 2008, to seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and is awaiting sentencing.

#### **ALLEGED BLOODS ASSOCIATES (7)**

**Robert Cozier**, 21, of 46 Albermarle Avenue in Hempstead, Long Island, was arrested on January 8, 2008 and charged with third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, second-degree criminally using drug paraphernalia, unlawful possession of marihuana and a violation of the vehicle and traffic laws (turning movements and required signals). Cozier pleaded guilty on May 21, 2008, to seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and was sentenced to three years' probation.

**Walter Desrosiers**, 33, of 898 Baldwin Drive in Westbury, Long Island, was arrested on March 14, 2008, and charged with second- and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. The case is presently pending. Allegedly recovered was a .45 caliber Thompson Colt (with one round in the chamber and one round in the magazine) and a 9mm semi automatic Glock from the defendant and his co-defendant, Eddy Voltaire.

**Henderick Evans**, 20, of 4091 Watson Farm Road in Whitaker, North Carolina, was arrested on January 17, 2008, and charged with second- and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. Evans pleaded guilty on May 21, 2008 to disorderly conduct and was sentenced to a conditional discharge.

**Joseph Felton**, 45, of 211-40 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Queens, was arrested on June 24, 2008, and charged with third-degree criminal possession of a weapon. The case is presently pending. Allegedly recovered was a 9mm defaced Ruger pistol and eight rounds of ammunition from the defendant and defendant Brittney Davis.

**Kevin Kimbrough**, 42, of Jamaica, Queens was arrested on July 18, 2008, and charged with third-, fourth- and fifth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, third- and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon and a violation of the New York City Administrative Code (firearms/ammunition/authorized pistol or revolver/different ammunition). Allegedly recovered was a shotgun, a 9mm pistol, boxes of ammunition and a magazine containing several live rounds of ammunition from the defendant and defendant Adolph Porter. The case is presently pending.

**Raymond Petit**, 23, of 11 Dikeman Street in Hempstead, Long Island, was arrested on January 8, 2008 and charged with third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, second-degree criminally using drug paraphernalia and unlawful possession of marihuana. Petit pleaded guilty on May 21, 2008, to seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and is awaiting sentencing.

**Eddy Voltaire**, 30, of 112-24 198<sup>th</sup> Street in St. Albans, Queens, was arrested on March 14, 2008, and charged with second- and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. The case is presently pending. Allegedly recovered was a .45 caliber Thompson Colt (with one round in the chamber and one round in the magazine) and a 9mm semi automatic Glock from the defendant and his co-defendant, Walter Desrosiers.

#### **ALLEGED CRIP MEMBER (1)**

**Jaivon Chisolm**, 20, of 144-15 181<sup>st</sup> Place in Jamaica, Queens, was arrested on November 15, 2007, and charged with second-degree murder and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon for the fatal shooting of Mark Arrington on November 14, 2007, purportedly related to the rivalry between the Crips and Bloods Gang. Chisolm pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter on June 25, 2008, and was sentenced to nineteen years in prison.

#### **OTHER DEFENDANTS (2)**

**Kevin Flores**, 23, of 259-01 149<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Rosedale, Queens, was arrested on November 13, 2007, and charged with second- and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. Allegedly recovered was a .357 magnum revolver (loaded with six rounds of ammunition) from the defendant.

**Adolph Porter**, 48, of Jamaica, Queens is a retired New York City Corrections Officer. Porter was arrested on July 18, 2008, and charged with third-, fourth- and fifth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon and a violation of the New York City Administrative Code (firearms/ammunition/authorized pistol or revolver/different ammunition). Allegedly recovered was a shotgun, a 9mm pistol, boxes of ammunition and a magazine containing several live rounds of ammunition from the defendant and defendant Kevin Kimbrough. The case is presently pending.

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