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YEAR-LONG UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION
RESULTS IN DRUG CHARGES AGAINST 22 INDIVIDUALS

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill, today announced that 22 individuals were arrested yesterday and variously charged with drug and weapon charges following a one-year undercover investigation in and around NYCHA's Queensbridge Houses in Long Island City, Queens.

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

Commissioner O'Neill said, "To keep driving crime and disorder down past already record-lows in New York City, it is imperative that we identify and dismantle illegal narcotics organizations like this one. The people who live and work in all of our neighborhoods deserve to be safe from drug-dealing and its associated violence. I thank the Queens District Attorney's Office, and especially commend the NYPD cops who put themselves directly in harm's way, for seeing this important investigation through to a successful conclusion."

The Queensbridge Houses is the largest public housing development in New York City. The Queensbridge Houses consist of 96 six-story brick residential buildings located in Long Island City Queens. The 3,142-unit complex accommodates approximately 6,907 people and is contained within six blocks bordered by 21st Street, the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge, Vernon Boulevard and 40th Avenue.

The investigation, which was conducted jointly by the NYPD's Narcotics Borough Queens Division and District Attorney Brown's Narcotics Investigation Bureau, commenced in September 2017. Over the course of the investigation – which included extensive physical surveillance and undercover police officers posing as narcotics customers – 22 individuals have been charged with the sale (and possession) of narcotics – including heroin, cocaine and marijuana.

The defendants are variously charged with the crimes of criminal sale of a controlled

substance, criminal possession of a weapon and other charges. **(See Addendum for details on defendants).**

In addition to the arrests, court-authorized search warrants were executed at nine locations within the Queensbridge Houses. A total of four handguns have been seized during the course of the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Ricardo Moreno, of the New York City Police Department's Queens Narcotics Division, who served as the lead detective, under the supervision of Sergeant Antwon Trent, Lieutenant Roddy Cortes, Captain Cassandra Whitaker and Deputy Inspector Donald Boller.

Assistant District Attorney Nancy Tse, of District Attorney Brown's Narcotics Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the cases under the supervision of Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Wilbert J. LeMelle, who also serves as the Narcotic Investigation's Bureau Chief, Mark Katz, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Philip D. Anderson, Supervisor, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco.

It should be noted that 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

Below are the names, ages and top charges filed against the 22 defendants.

Shalonda Anderson, 49, of Long Island City, is charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. If convicted the defendant faces up to one year in jail.

Nathaniel Artis, 41, of Long Island City, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 12 years in prison.

Julie Benjamin, 20, of Long Island City, is charged with third-degree criminal possession of a firearm. If convicted, the defendant faces up four years in prison.

Xena Benjamin, 22, of Long Island City, is charged with third-degree criminal possession of a weapon. If convicted, the defendant faces up to seven years in prison.

Priscilla Carbajal, 26, of Jackson Heights, is charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up one year in jail.

Jondell Harley, 31, of Long Island City, is charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up one year in jail.

Anthony Johnson, 55, of Long Island City, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up 12 years in prison.

Darren Joseph, 52, of Jackson Heights, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up to nine years in prison.

Robert Little-John, 20, of Long Island City, is charged with fourth-degree sale of marijuana. If convicted, the defendant faces up one year in jail.

Harold Martin, 66, of Long Island City, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up nine years in prison.

Dawn Muhammad, 53, of Long Island City, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up nine years in prison.

Nathaniel Newell, 30, of Long Island City, is charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up one year in jail.

Gerilyn Oden, 45, of Long Island City, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up 12 years in prison.

Kristal Olarte, 25, of Long Island City, is charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up one year in jail.

Edwin Roman, 59, of Long Island City, is charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up one year in jail.

Rebecca Singleton, 68, of South Ozone Park, is charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up one year in jail.

Antonette Williams, 43, of Long Island City, is charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up one year in jail.

Frenchie Williams, 28, of Long Island City, is charged with unlawful possession of marijuana.

Sandra Wilson, 67, of Long Island City, is charged with unlawful possession of marijuana.

Daquan Johnson, of Long Island City, is charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. If convicted, the defendant faces up to one year in jail.

Stephanie Parker, of Long Island City, is charged with unlawful possession of marijuana.

Lionel Skinner, of Long Island City, is charged with fourth-degree criminal sale of marijuana. If convicted, the defendant faces up to a year in jail.

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