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**NINE REPUTED MEMBERS OF VIOLENT ROCKAWAY STREET GANG
INDICTED FOR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDERS**

*Long-Term Investigation Uncovers Alleged Plots to Kill Rival Gang Members
With Defendants Using Code Words To Talk About Shootings on Social Media*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Queens County grand jury has indicted nine purported members of the Wildmeda Crips Gang for attempting to shoot rival gang members. The attempted murders are alleged to have taken place in June 2015, July 2015, December 2015 and July 2016.

“The defendants are accused of turning neighborhood streets into war zones by acting in concert with one another to carry out targeted hits on their enemies,” said District Attorney Brown. “A long-term investigation, which included deciphering social media postings, allegedly uncovered four separate plots by members of the Wildmeda Crips to kill rival gang members.”

District Attorney Brown continued, “The defendants are alleged to have communicated for months about acquiring guns and cars for hits and actually admitted in conversations online to “spanking” and getting “busy” shooting their targets. This indictment is another example of police and prosecutors working together to eliminate gang violence. The defendants now face a lengthy term of incarceration for these alleged acts.”

The defendants are awaiting arraignment before Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert Kohm. **(See Addendum for defendants and charges).**

District Attorney Brown said, the nine defendants - who range in age from 20 to 29 - are alleged to have operated around the Ocean Bay Housing Development between Almeda Avenue and Beach Channel Drive from Beach 51st Street to Beach 54th Street in Far Rockaway. The defendants in this case asserted control with guns, beatings and intimidation.

According to the 52-count indictment, said the District Attorney, between April 1, 2015, and December 31, 2016, the defendants targeted members of the 70Gs, SOS, Edgemere Bloods, Flammers and any other gang that ventured into what they considered their territory. Over the course of this long-term investigation, social media postings and phone conversations allegedly uncovered top-ranking gang members ordering subordinates to kill and/or injure their rivals, carry out physical assaults and acquire weapons to carry out their goal of ridding their territory of rivals.

Continuing, said District Attorney Brown, according to the charges defendant Kamel Cardwell - alleged to be a high-ranking member of the Wildmeda Crips - is accused of being the shooter in an attempt on the life of a member of the 70Gs Gang on June 1, 2015. Defendant Michael

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Brown is alleged to have shot and injured a member of the Flammers Gang on July 11, 2015. Ballistics analysis allegedly confirm the same gun was used in both the June and July shootings in 2015.

According to the indictment, said District Attorney Brown, on December 26, 2015, a third shooting took place on Alameda Avenue and video surveillance allegedly showed Cardwell, Tyrell Durham and a co-conspirator acting together and firing shots at SOS Bloods members. The fourth murder attempt allegedly took place on July 3, 2016, inside an apartment building on Beach Channel Drive with defendants Dashawn Young and Freddie Lawson acting together wherein they allegedly shot a rival gang member. The victim sustained life-threatening injuries and was hospitalized in critical condition.

The long-term investigation - which was spearheaded by the New York City Police Department's Gun Violence Suppression Division, Violence Reduction Task Force, and the Queens District Attorney's Narcotics Investigations Bureau - utilized numerous investigative tools, including reviewing phone conversations of incarcerated subjects and postings on social media pages of gang members. It is alleged the gang members discussed their plans and then after the shootings boasted about them online. In an effort to elude law enforcement, the gang members used coded words and phrases in their conversations. Among this coded language, they allegedly referenced shootings as "spanked," "popped his cherry," "its litt" and "got busy." Firearms were referred to as a "situation," "jawn," "thoty," "whoopy" and "bitch."

District Attorney Brown continued, according to the charges, as part of the conspiracy the defendants would allegedly keep incarcerated gang members apprised of activities and events related to gang business - including acts of violence.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Brian Gunn and Joseph Andreno of the New York City Police Department's Violence Reduction Task Force of the Gun Violence Suppression Division, under the supervision of Sergeant Patrick Cain, Lieutenant Richard Zaccarese and Captain Thomas Passolo and under the overall supervision of Inspector Richard Green and Chief James Essig.

Assistant District Attorney Julie S. Trivedi, the Unit Chief of District Attorney Brown's Violent Criminal Enterprises, and Assistant District Attorney Diana Schioppi, are prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Wilbert J. LeMelle, Chief of the Narcotics Investigations Bureau, Mark L. Katz, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney of Investigations Peter A. Crusco.

It should be noted that an indictment are merely accusations and that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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

ADDENDUM

DEFENDANTS

Kamel "KO" and "A-OK" Cardwell, 25, of Far Rockaway, Queens, is awaiting arraignment in Queens Supreme Court on an indictment charging him with second-degree attempted murder, second- and fourth-degree conspiracy, first- and second-degree assault, first-degree criminal use of a firearm, second- and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon,

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first-degree attempted assault and first-degree reckless endangerment. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 25 years in prison.

Michael Brown, 21, of Far Rockaway, Queens, is awaiting arraignment in Queens Supreme Court on an indictment charging him with second-degree attempted murder, second- and fourth-degree conspiracy, first- and second-degree assault, first-degree criminal use of a firearm and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 25 years in prison.

Matthew “Yams” Llorente, 20, of Far Rockaway, Queens, is awaiting arraignment in Queens Supreme Court this afternoon on an indictment charging him with second-degree attempted murder, second- and fourth-degree conspiracy, first- and second-degree assault, second-degree criminal possession of a weapon and criminal possession of a firearm. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 25 years in prison.

Tyrell “Banko” Durham, 29, of Far Rockaway, Queens, is awaiting arraignment in Queens Supreme Court on an indictment charging him with second-degree attempted murder, second- and fourth-degree conspiracy, first-degree criminal use of a firearm, second- and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon, first-degree attempted assault, first-degree reckless endangerment. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 25 years in prison.

Dashawn “Woody” Young, 22, of Far Rockaway, Queens, is awaiting arraignment in Queens Supreme Court on an indictment charging him with second-degree attempted murder, second- and fourth-degree conspiracy, first-degree assault, first-degree criminal use of a firearm and second- and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 25 years in prison.

Freddie “Fetti” Lawson, 23, of Far Rockaway, Queens, is awaiting arraignment in Queens Supreme Court on an indictment charging him with second-degree attempted murder, second- and fourth-degree conspiracy, first-degree assault, first-degree criminal use of a firearm and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 25 years in prison.

Kavaun “Man” Harper, 21, of Far Rockaway, Queens, is awaiting arraignment in Queens Supreme Court this afternoon on an indictment charging him with second- and fourth-degree conspiracy, second-degree criminal possession of a weapon and criminal possession of a firearm. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 15 years in prison.

Remon “Ratty” Newsom, 25, of Far Rockaway, Queens, is awaiting arraignment in Queens Supreme Court this afternoon on an indictment charging him with second- and fourth-degree conspiracy, second- and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon and criminal possession of a firearm. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 15 years in prison.

One defendant is still being sought.