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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019

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**RAVENSWOOD HOUSES DRUG CREW BUSTED;**  
**SEVEN ALLEGED DEALERS ARRESTED**

*Defendants Charged With Selling Heroin and Cocaine;  
Police Seized Firearms, Ammunition And Cash*

Chief Assistant District Attorney John M. Ryan, on behalf of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, along with New York City Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill and New York City Department of Investigations Commissioner Margaret Garnett, today announced the arrest of seven individuals following a long-term investigation of drug trafficking within the Ravenswood Houses in Long Island City, Queens, between March 2018 and April 2019.

Chief ADA Ryan said, "The defendants charged in this case turned a housing complex filled with families and numerous children into an illicit drug emporium. Peddling cocaine and heroin, the crew made multiple sales to "buyers" who happened to be undercover detectives, as well as individuals who placed orders by phone. This kind of lawless drug distribution operation will not be tolerated in Queens County. I want to thank the members of the New York City Police Department's Queens North Gang Squad for their dedicated work in apprehending the defendants, and for the assistance of the City's Department of Investigations. We will continue to work with our law enforcement colleagues to make our neighborhoods safe."

Police Commissioner O'Neill said, "These arrests have dismantled an established network of criminal offenders who were transporting and distributing significant quantities of illegal guns and drugs. My thanks to the investigators and law enforcement partners for their hard work in this case and ensuring that these individuals will be unable to continue profiting from the misery their trade brought to our communities."

DOI Commissioner Garnett said, "Ridding our City's public housing of dangerous gang and drug activity is an important step towards creating safer communities for residents. DOI was proud to join the NYPD Queens North Gang South Squad and the Queens District Attorney's Office in this investigation, breaking up a violent criminal enterprise and removing a conduit for crack, cocaine and other drugs from the Ravenswood Houses."

The Queens District Attorney's Office identified the alleged ring leader of the drug dealing crew as Jamarl Gilmore, 38, of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Long Island City, Queens. Gilmore was arrested in August of 2018, and charged with first-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance and other crimes. The defendant's case is pending and he faces between 15 and 30 years in prison if convicted. The investigation into the crew operating within the Ravenswoods Houses continued after Gilmore's arrest and the other main defendants apprehended last week include Donte Wiggins, 38, of Queens

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Village, Damein Walker, 40, and Gerard Dennis, 26, both of Long Island City. Three other individuals were also arrested. The defendants are variously charged in separate complaints with criminal sale of a controlled substance and other crimes. **(See Addendum for details on each defendant).**

Detectives of the NYPD's Queens North Gang Squad and assistant district attorneys within the Queens District Attorney's Narcotics Investigations Bureau, pursuant to a court-authorized eavesdropping warrant issued in May 2018, have been listening in on conversations between various members of the alleged drug dealing crew. Individuals called various defendants to order drugs, meets were set up to exchange cash for cocaine and heroin.

Continuing, according to the charges, when police arrested defendant Wiggins on Wednesday, he allegedly stated in sum and substance that he had "cocaine in his buttocks." One of the arresting officers allegedly recovered a plastic bag containing cocaine from the defendant's buttocks. Police also executed a court-authorized search warrant on Wiggin's 215<sup>th</sup> Place residence in Queens Village and allegedly recovered two .40-caliber semi-automatic handguns, magazines and ammunition.

Chief Ryan stated, according to the complaints, over the course of the investigation, undercover detectives - posing as buyers - allegedly purchased both cocaine and heroin from various defendants. Executing court-authorized search warrants at eight locations within Queens County, police allegedly recovered a total of three firearms, high-capacity magazines, nearly 100 rounds of ammunition, cocaine, marijuana and a scale.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Jared Rothschild, of the New York City Police Department's Queen Gang North Squad, under the supervision of Sergeant David Rodriguez, Lieutenant Joseph Barone, Lieutenant Larry Sista, Captain Ray Jenkins, and under the overall command of Deputy Inspector Donald Boller and Chief of Queens North Detective Bureau Eddie Lott.

Assistant District Attorney Nancy Tse, of the District Attorney's Narcotics Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Wilbert J. LeMelle, Bureau Chief, Mark L. Katz, Deputy Bureau Chief and Julie S. Trivedi, Deputy Bureau Chief and Unit Chief of Violent Criminal Enterprises, Philip D. Anderson, Section Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco.

It should be noted that criminal complaints are merely an accusation and that the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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#### **ADDENDUM**

**JAMARL GILMORE**, 38, of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Long Island City, Queens, is charged with first-, second- and third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. The defendant was arraigned in Queens Criminal Court on August 2, 2018 and remanded without bail. The defendant's next date is May 1, 2019. If convicted, Gilmore faces between 15 and 30 years in prison.

**DONTE WIGGINS**, 38, of 215<sup>th</sup> Place in Queens Village, Queens, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance, fourth-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance, second- and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon, criminal possession of a firearm, unlawful

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possession of a pistol or revolver ammunition and unlawful possession of marijuana. The defendant was arraigned Thursday and held in lieu of \$50,000 bond. The defendant's return date is April 29, 2019. If convicted, Wiggins faces between 3 1/5 to 15 years in prison.

**DAMEIN WALKER**, 40, of 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Long Island City, Queens, is charged with second- and third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance, third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, second- and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon, criminal possession of a firearm and unlawful possession of pistol or revolver ammunition. The defendant was arraigned Thursday and held in lieu of \$10,000 bond. The defendant's return date is April 25, 2019. If convicted, Walker faces between 3 1/5 to 15 years in prison

**GERARD DENNIS**, 27, of 21<sup>st</sup> Street in Long Island City, Queens, is charged with second- and third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance, third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and second-degree criminally using drug paraphernalia. The defendant was arraigned Thursday and held in lieu of \$25,000 bond. The defendant's return date is May 16, 2019. If convicted, Dennis faces between 6 and 14 years in prison.

**CHEYENNE PARSON**, 27, of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Long Island City, Queens, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance and criminal sale of a controlled substance in or near school grounds. The defendant was arraigned on April 10, 2019 and released on his own recognizance. The defendant's return date is June 5, 2019. If convicted, Parson faces between one and nine years in prison.

**DELTON MCCALL**, 23, of 24<sup>th</sup> Street, in Long Island City, Queens, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. The defendant was arraigned Thursday and released on his own recognizance. The defendant's return date is June 3, 2019. If convicted, McCall faces between one and nine years in prison.

**KAVON ROBINSON**, 23, of 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Long Island City, Queens, is charged with third-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. The defendant was arraigned Thursday and released on his own recognizance. The defendant's return date is May 14, 2019. If convicted, Robinson faces between one and nine years in prison.

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