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DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO TRAFFICKING GUNS AND DRUGS IN SOUTHEAST QUEENS

Teddy Gaston Worked with Codefendant to Sell Iron Pipeline Guns in Rosedale McDonald's Parking Lot for Cash to Undercover Detective; Expected to be Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced that Teddy Gaston pleaded guilty to criminal sale of a firearm and attempted criminal sale of a controlled substance for bringing dozens of guns into Queens. Gaston and codefendant Jezerel Huston were arrested in September 2025 after an undercover investigation resulted in the purchase of 59 guns. An additional 18 guns were seized upon the defendants' arrest.

District Attorney Katz said: "Teddy Gaston, working with a codefendant from Georgia, trafficked guns through the Iron Pipeline into Queens. Our undercover investigation with our law enforcement partners put a stop to this illegal conduct and took 77 guns out of circulation. This case sends a clear message that we will use every tool available to stop the flow of dangerous weapons into our communities."

Gaston, aka JD Yikes, 40, of South Jamaica pleaded guilty Wednesday to criminal sale of a firearm in the first degree and attempted criminal sale of a controlled substance in the first degree in satisfaction of the indictment. Supreme Court Justice Diego Freire ordered him to return to court on January 26, 2027, when he is expected to be sentenced to 10 years in prison to be followed by five years of post-release supervision.

Huston, 42, of Macon, Georgia, pleaded guilty on June 24 to criminal sale of a firearm in the first degree in satisfaction of the indictment. Supreme Court Justice Toni Cimino sentenced him in July to 10 years in prison to be followed by five years of post-release supervision.

DA Katz said that, according to the indictment and investigation, members of the Queens District Attorney's office, the NYPD and Homeland Security Investigations began a firearms trafficking investigation involving the defendants around March 2025.

Huston obtained firearms in Georgia and transported them to Gaston, who sold the weapons in Queens along with narcotics.

Between April 7, 2025, and August 29, 2025, an undercover officer conducted eight controlled buys with the defendants. Most of the firearms contained high-capacity magazines and some of the weapons were defaced. Many of the purchases took place at a McDonald's parking lot on Merrick Boulevard and 244th Street in Rosedale.

The transactions resulted in the seizure of 59 firearms including assault weapons and a ghost gun, ammunition and narcotics including fentanyl and cocaine. An additional 18 guns were seized when the defendants

were arrested.

Assistant District Attorney Candice Smith of the District Attorney's Strategic Investigations Bureau is prosecuting the case with assistance from Assistant District Attorney Kieran Linehan, Section Chief of the Major Narcotics Unit, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Tara DiGregorio, Bureau Chief, Rachel Stein, Deputy Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Joseph T. Conley III.

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