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## **OPERATION TIDE TASK FORCE ARRESTS MEMBERS OF THE JOY ROAD DRUG GANG**

DETROIT – U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy, Eastern Judicial District of Michigan, Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings announced today the arrests of several members of the Joy Road organization, an armed and violent drug gang operating in Detroit’s Northwest District over the past few years. This was a TIDE (Tactical Intelligence Driven Enforcement) investigation, lead by ATF and the Detroit Police Department with assistance from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Michigan State Police (MSP).

“This case highlights the success of the TIDE-team approach using innovative technology, analytical investigative resources, and integrated law enforcement strategies to identify, disrupt, arrest and prosecute the most violent criminals in Detroit. This federal indictment has removed 10 additional gang members from our streets,” Goddard said.

This follows on the heels of arrests made by the TIDE Task Force in May of the organization known as the Detroit Thug Lordz. Since its inception in May 2006, Operation TIDE has resulted in a 43 percent decrease in homicides in Northwest Detroit compared to an 8 percent decrease in the rest of the city. Non-fatal shootings are down 26 percent compared to a 15 percent reduction citywide. The decline is also due in part to a total of 503 felony arrests and impromptu home visits to parolees.

The organization, which was infiltrated by an undercover ATF agent, was alleged to have been operating since 2004, dealing in crime guns and distributing crack cocaine and other controlled substances; taking in an estimated \$10 million in drug proceeds over the course of its three year operation. Its members, some of whom are previously convicted felons, were known to carry firearms for their protection and that of their drug trafficking operation. This organization is suspected in a 2005 shootout on Greenview Street in the Northwest District where a member of this organization and that of a rival drug gang resulted in the death of both individuals.

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The year-long criminal investigation resulted in the federal indictment of 10 members, including its leader. All defendants are facing a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment, up to mandatory life for charges of conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine. Additional charges may be forthcoming.

“Today’s arrest demonstrates how effective collaboration between federal, state, and local law enforcement working together toward the goal of fighting violent crime in Northwest Detroit can make a difference,” said Murphy. “The commitment of the partners in this endeavor has been extraordinary. With our success in Northwest Detroit, we hope to expand the TIDE initiative to other areas of the city.”

“Members of this group have shown over time to have a strong propensity for violent criminal behavior. Today’s arrests should provide some relief for residents in the District who have had to endure their activity,” said Bully-Cummings. “The arrests of these individuals should also serve as a precursory signal to those committing criminal acts in the Northwest District and other parts of the city that the Detroit Police Department will utilize all available resources to pursue and apprehend those involved. Operation TIDE remains an example of how city, state, and federal law enforcement agencies can successfully work together to address emerging crime issues.”

Of the 10 members charged, five were arrested early this morning and are scheduled to make their initial appearances in federal court at 1:00 p.m. this afternoon. These defendants, all from Detroit, include: Antoine Bankhead (23); Manuel Brooks (39); Reginald Gilder (23); Scott McDuffie (20); and Issac Spencer (23). Defendant Anthony Mack (26) was already in state custody on unrelated state charges; and gang leader Gary Young (23) and Damien Hawkins (26) were already in custody on these federal charges. Defendants Victor Holmes (23) and Darryl Madison (21) are considered fugitives at this time.



Victor Holmes



Darryl Madison

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Operation TIDE is the unprecedented, long-term law enforcement and community collaboration where federal, state, county and local law enforcement officials meet regularly and work in cooperation to reduce violent crimes and prevent recidivism by focusing on the “worst of the worst” in Northwest Detroit, Detroit’s largest police district. Upcoming events for PSN Operation TIDE include:

- One Year Anniversary Press Conference and Announcement of TIDE’s expansion into other police districts in Detroit ~ early August,

- National Crime Prevention Conference produced by the Department of Justice Community Capacity Development Office, August 21-23 at Detroit's Marriott Conference Center featuring Governor Jennifer Granholm and leadership from the federal, state, county and city departments who work on TIDE together with more than 1,500 law enforcement officials and community leaders throughout the United States.

Other PSN Operation TIDE Task Force partners include the U.S. Marshals Service, the FBI, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, and the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Citizens with information concerning illegal guns, gangs with guns, armed drug trafficking or the trafficking of illegal guns are encouraged to call **800-ATF-GUNS**. Callers can remain anonymous. This number is managed and answered by law enforcement, ATF agents who work directly with local police departments. For information about Project Safe Neighborhoods call 1-800-891-8881 or visit [www.psnworks.org](http://www.psnworks.org).

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