



News Release



San Francisco Field Division

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ATF AND WASHOE COUNTY TEAM SEIZES WEAPONS AND DRUGS FROM ALLEGED GANG MEMBERS, CONVICTED FELONS

RENO, Nev. – Acting Special Agent in Charge Michael P. Gleysteen of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) San Francisco Field Division, Washoe County District Attorney Richard A. Gammick, Washoe County Sheriff Michael Haley and Reno Police Chief Michael Poehlman announced today the culmination of an undercover investigation that resulted in 41 defendants charged with firearms and narcotics violations. Six of the defendants are alleged members of the Mongols outlaw motorcycle gang; nearly half are convicted felons.

The 15-month, undercover investigation, dubbed "Operation Domino," included investigative techniques supported by the Washoe County District Attorney's Office, under the guidance of DA Gammick and Assistant DA John Helzer of the Criminal Division. It included more than 100 undercover operations and the purchase of 75 firearms; three additional guns were seized from felons during arrests. Some of the weapons purchased from defendants by undercover agents included two machineguns, four silencers, a short-barreled rifle and a sawed-off shotgun. Additionally, at least 17 of the guns had been reported stolen by their rightful owners.

"Due to the outstanding cooperation and effort between ATF and the local law enforcement agencies, a number of defendants will be held accountable for dealing in firearms, drugs and stolen property in Washoe County," said District Attorney Gammick.

"So many guns in the hands of the wrong people is a scary thought. Now, the guns, drugs and stolen property are now in law enforcement custody and not on the

streets of Reno,” said Acting SAC Gleysteen. “ATF and our partners, the Washoe County District Attorney’s Office, the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office and the Reno Police Department, have worked hard to change the destiny of those guns. We are pleased to report the results yielded from Operation Domino will have a direct impact in Washoe County.”

“Operation Domino is yet another example of collaborative efforts, between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Washoe County Sheriff’s Office, Washoe County District Attorney’s Office and Reno Police Department, in removing dangerous criminals, illegal weapons and contraband from the streets of our communities. The efforts of these outstanding law enforcement officers are something we can all be proud of,” said Washoe County Sheriff Haley.

“The Reno Police Department is thankful for the collaboration of its local, state, and federal law enforcement partners who have worked hard on this case to help make our community safer. The removal of illegal weapons and those who traffic in them is a high priority for all our agencies,” according to Chief Poehlman, Reno Police Department.

During the course of the investigation more than six pounds of methamphetamine, most of it allegedly manufactured in Mexico (with an estimated street value of \$142,000), as well as the prescription medicine Oxycontin and Hydrocodone were purchased or seized.

ATF is the federal agency with jurisdiction for investigating federal firearms violations. More information on ATF and its programs can be found at www.atf.gov.

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