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PRESS RELEASE

***30 MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES OF TWO STATEN ISLAND-BASED
VIOLENT GANGS CHARGED WITH CRACK COCAINE
DISTRIBUTION AND FIREARMS VIOLATIONS,
INCLUDING SIX SHOOTINGS***

ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOPF, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of
New York, **WILLIAM G. McMAHON**, Special Agent-in-Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms & Explosives, and **RAYMOND W. KELLY**, Commissioner, New York City Police Department, today announced the unsealing of federal charges against 30 members and associates of two rival drug crews operating on Staten Island, the “Deuce Mob” and “Mob-up” gangs, and others, for conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and for firearms related charges. Those defendants arrested earlier today are scheduled to have their initial appearances later this afternoon before United States Magistrate Judge Cheryl L. Pollak, at the U. S. Courthouse, 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York.

The charges and arrests follow a seventeen-month investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (“ATF”) into multiple shootings over drug turf wars in the Port Richmond and West Brighton sections of Staten Island, with assistance provided by the New York City Police Department and the Office of Daniel Donovan, District Attorney for Richmond County.

Crack Cocaine Distribution Investigation

According to the pleadings and a detention letter filed by the government, three brothers, ANTHONY, GERALD and JAHKLEEM JOHNSON, supervised the operations of the Deuce Mob gang, a retail crack cocaine distribution organization. Specifically, from late 2002 through 2003, the JOHNSONs and two of their associates lived at 51/53 Harrison Avenue in the Port Richmond area of Staten Island and used that location as a base of operations for “bagging up” crack cocaine and selling it from their front porch. As part of its investigation, ATF placed a “pole” camera in the vicinity of the JOHNSON house, and recorded hundreds of hours of drug sales at that address. The Deuce Mob relied upon violence and intimidation to control drug trafficking in Port Richmond, and granted only a limited number of “franchises” to non-Deuce-

Mob members to sell narcotics in the neighborhood.

As a further part of the investigation, ATF coordinated an undercover operation to determine Deuce Mob's main source of supply of crack and powder cocaine. That investigation revealed that members of the gang regularly traveled to upper Manhattan to purchase either crack or powder cocaine, which they subsequently "cooked" into crack. Acting in undercover capacities, ATF agents directed the purchase of over 125 grams of crack cocaine from the defendant OMAR GOMEZ, and more than 60 grams of crack cocaine from Jose Ramirez, another supplier to Deuce Mob members. Ramirez recently pled guilty to narcotics related charges in federal court in Brooklyn (United States v. Ramirez, Cr. No. 03-1081 (ARR)).

The government has charged that the Mob-Up crew, a crack gang and rival to the Deuce Mob, initially concentrated its narcotics sales on Castleton and Henderson Avenues. However, beginning in 2002, OTIS GREYSON, the Mob-Up's leader, began intimidating other independent drug dealers in an attempt to increase the gang's market share. Seeking protection, the targeted drug dealers aligned themselves with the Deuce Mob and, beginning in early 2003, a series of shootings began between Mob-Up and Deuce Mob and their allies.

The Firearms Trafficking and Shooting Investigation

At least six shootings have occurred between these rival groups in the Port Richmond and West Brighton sections of Staten Island, as the gangs fought over drug dealing territory. Three were committed by Deuce Mob, and three were committed by Mob-Up. None of the shootings resulted in fatalities, but two individuals were wounded during the gunfights.

In May 2003, after a Mob-Up member fired several shots onto the porch at the Deuce Mob 51/53 Harrison drug location, members of the Deuce Mob and their associates drove

to West Brighton and shot at two Mob-Up members in a Range Rover.

In August 2003, a VIPER camera installed by the NYPD in the vicinity of the West Brighton projects captured yet another gang-related shooting. In the videotape, BARRY VANDUNN, a Mob-Up member, can be seen approaching another individual and shooting him. The victim is then seen falling to the ground and then, with the help of another individual, limps away.

In an earlier related federal case pending in the Eastern District of New York, BAYDAR TAYLOR was charged with illegally trafficking in firearms (United States v. Eddie Gravely and Baydar Taylor, Cr. No. 04-0048 (NGG)). TAYLOR allegedly assisted in the transportation of firearms to New York City from Georgia, and then sold the guns to be used in the commission of violent crimes on the streets of New York. To date, the investigation leading to the gun trafficking charges identified 65 firearms purchased in Georgia for TAYLOR and Gravely. As part of ATF's investigation, at least ten of the guns were recovered at crime scenes in Staten Island, including assaults, shootings, narcotics offenses and a homicide. As an additional part of their investigation, ATF agents purchased two guns in an undercover operation, and recovered two more guns from a fleeing defendant.

If convicted on the charges announced today, each of the defendants charged with narcotics distribution, based on sales of crack cocaine, faces a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years imprisonment and a maximum of life imprisonment, and a maximum fine of \$4,000,000. Each defendant charged with using a firearm in furtherance of a drug crime faces a ten-year mandatory minimum term that must be imposed consecutively to any sentence imposed on the substantive narcotics conviction. Each defendant charged with illegal sale of a firearm to a

person under indictment faces a maximum sentence of ten years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000.¹

“This prosecution sends a message to the law-abiding residents of Staten Island who are living in neighborhoods prowled by predatory drug trafficking gangs that we are working everyday to reduce violent crimes by identifying and arresting violent criminals,” stated United States Attorney **ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOPF**. “This effort is part of the President’s Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, led by the Department of Justice and ATF, to create safer neighborhoods by reducing gun violence.” **MS. MAUSKOPF** thanked the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office and the New York City Police Department Detectives of the 120th Precinct for their assistance in the investigation, and added that the investigation is continuing.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives Special Agent-in-Charge **WILLIAM G. McMAHON**, stated, “ATF is working aggressively with our partners from federal, state and local law enforcement to stem the tide of violence in our communities through Project Safe Neighborhood, the President’s initiative to deter crime and punish gun crimes nationwide. ATF will be vigilant in dismantling violent gangs here in New York and across the country. We will take the fight wherever it leads us.”

New York City Police Commissioner **RAYMOND W. KELLY** stated, “Drugs and guns go hand in hand. In this case, we broke both hands of the gangs involved.”

The government’s case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Colleen Kavanagh.

¹ The charges are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless

The Defendants:

OTIS GREYSON

DOB: 4/22/1977

Residence: Staten Island, New York

BARRY VANDUNN

DOB: 1/6/77

Residence: Staten Island, New York

SHABUCALIK GERALDS

DOB: 12/23/1979

Residence: Staten Island, New York

HASAAN MCGHIE

DOB: 4/28/1978

Residence: Staten Island, New York

KENDALL MILLER

DOB: 2/23/1984

Residence: Staten Island, New York

KINTE CARTER

DOB: 9/11/1978

Residence: Staten Island, New York

GERALD JOHNSON

DOB: 5/16/1979

Residence: Staten Island, New York

ANTHONY JOHNSON

DOB: 6/10/1980

Residence: Staten Island, New York

JAHKEEM JOHNSON

DOB: 4/14/1982

Residence: Staten Island, New York

JEROME JOHNSON

DOB: 1/18/1984

Residence: Staten Island, New York

and until proven guilty.

JERMAINE JOHNSON,
DOB: 9/22/1977
Residence: Staten Island, New York
SEAN WHITTED
DOB: 5/31/1980
Residence: Staten Island, New York

MORES FULLER
DOB: 12/26/1972
Residence: Staten Island, New York

TROY GILMORE
DOB: 11/13/1977
Residence: Staten Island, New York

MARK BROWN
DOB: 4/6/1963
Residence: Staten Island, New York

MARQUIS GATHERS
DOB: 4/2/1983
Residence: Staten Island, New York

FABIAN ROSS
DOB: 5/15/1965
Residence: Staten Island, New York

WILL SMITH
DOB: 11/3/1974
Residence: Staten Island, New York

Name: BADYR TAYLOR
DOB: 5/3/1979
Residence: Staten, Island, New York

PHILIP RIVERS
DOB: 2/3/1977
Residence: Staten Island, New York

KEVIN WALTON
DOB: 9/13/1972

Residence: Staten Island, New York

JULIUS KING

DOB: 3/27/1980

Residence: Staten Island, New York

JOHN DEGROAT

DOB: 7/18/1981

Residence: Staten Island, New York

LATOYA JACKSON

DOB: 4/20/1984

Residence: Staten Island, New York

MARK THOMPSON

DOB: 12/26/1982

Residence: Staten Island, New York

ANIBAL THOMPSON

DOB: 9/21/1984

Residence: Staten Island, New York

OMAR GOMEZ

DOB: 9/3/1979

Residence: Manhattan, New York

AVA JOHNSON

Residence: Staten Island, New York

JANELLE JOHNSON

Residence: Staten Island, New York

SHAYSHAUNA GOURDINE

DOB: 4/30/1973

Residence: Staten Island, New York