

NEWS



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FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTS 2 NEW ORLEANS MEN FOR ILLEGAL NARCOTICS AND GUN CHARGES

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA - Jim Letten, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, and David Harper, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), announced today that two New Orleans men were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in New Orleans for drug trafficking and possessing a firearm during the distribution of illegal narcotics.

ANDRE K. FOUNTAIN, 25, and **RONALD WALLIS, 20** of Orleans Parish were charged in a three-count federal indictment that alleged they possessed with the intent to distribute fifty (50) grams or more of cocaine base or “crack” and carried a firearm while

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participating in a drug trafficking crime. Additionally, **FOUNTAIN** has a separate charge of possessing a firearm after having been previously convicted of a felony offense.

U. S. Attorney Letten stated:

“This indictment is among many our office hopes to pursue as a result of the Gun Hotline manned by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Our office has filed nearly 800 gun cases under the federally sponsored initiative – Project Safe Neighborhood -- in the Eastern District of Louisiana. We are extremely optimistic about this new tool to attack the violent crime offenders in the greater New Orleans area. With the help of our citizens calling in and reporting gun violations, we can begin rebuilding safer neighborhoods.”

Under the indictment, **FOUNTAIN** and **WALLIS** are facing a minimum of ten (10) years and a maximum range of life imprisonment for the possession with the intent to distribute fifty (50) grams or more of cocaine base or “crack.” In addition, the defendants will face a mandatory five (5) years above and beyond any term of imprisonment for the illegal drug possession charge. Moreover, **FOUNTAIN** will face a maximum punishment of ten (10) years for possessing a firearm after having been previously convicted of a felony.

The United States Attorney cautions a criminal indictment is merely an allegation of a criminal offense and that all persons charged with a criminal offense are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The investigation of **FOUNTAIN** and **WALLIS** was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) and Louisiana Department of Probation and Parole. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Abram McGull, II.

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