

NEWS

From the Office of the City Attorney
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PRESS RELEASE

June 21, 2013

CHOSEN FEW MOTORCYCLE GANG PROHIBITED FROM OPERATING HEADQUARTERS FOR 10 YEARS FOLLOWING RAMPANT DRUG SMUGGLING, WEAPON SALES

LOS ANGELES – The City Attorney’s Office has secured a court order prohibiting the “Chosen Few” motorcycle gang from operating in the city for 10 years. The City Attorney’s Office secured the order from the Los Angeles Superior Court as a result of the motorcycle gang’s long history of drug and illegal gun sales. The Chosen Few headquarters, located in the 10800 block of South Broadway, was the subject of a civil enforcement action and an ongoing multi-agency taskforce as a result of three shootings and a homicide by the club in the first four months of 2010.

“For too long, the Chosen Few motorcycle gang has terrorized this community and used its headquarters as a haven for criminals and illegal activity,” City Attorney Carmen Trutanich said. “This ruling and our collaborative effort with our law enforcement partners will bring needed relief to the residents plagued by this group of outlaws.”

Following a nuisance abatement lawsuit filed by the City Attorney in 2011, the Chosen Few Motorcycle Club was ordered by the Los Angeles Superior Court to stop operating a headquarters in the City of Los Angeles for a period of 10 years and to pay \$50,000 in attorneys’ fees and investigative costs to the City. The Club’s managers and directors have agreed to prevent the sale of weapons, the sale of narcotics, drug use, alcohol sales, unlicensed nightclub activities and operation of the unlawful tattoo parlor at 10800 S. Broadway. The Defendants also agreed not to own or operate any motorcycle clubhouse within the City of Los Angeles for 10 years.

“Because of the combined efforts of the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office, LAPD, and ATF, this criminal organization which has been conducting illegal activities in our communities has been removed,” said Steven J. Bogdalek Special Agent in Charge ATF Los Angeles Field Division. “This ruling will have a significant impact on other criminal organizations and the dedicated work by all our partners should be applauded.”

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In May 2010, the City Attorney's Office joined a multi-agency taskforce involving members of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and the California Department of Justice to coordinate operations in an effort to reduce the criminal activities of the Chosen Few Motorcycle Club.

In June 2010, the taskforce launched an elaborate operation using confidential informants to purchase firearms and narcotics from Chosen Few Motorcycle Club members and associates. Working with local and out-of-state members of the taskforce, one Chosen Few member was arrested for narcotics trafficking, with over one kilogram of powder cocaine seized.

Seizures by the LAPD and ATF throughout this investigation netted a gallon of PCP, 77 gross grams of powder cocaine, 51 gross grams of crack cocaine, 121 gross grams of marijuana and ten firearms. Additional seizures from several associates of the Los Angeles-based Chosen Few MC include six gallons of PCP and 500 gross grams of powder cocaine.

Deputy City Attorney Jule Bishop handled this matter.

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ATTACHED: Signed Stipulated Judgment

1 CARMEN TRUTANICH, City Attorney, City of Los Angeles
2 Mary Clare Molidor, Deputy Chief, Criminal & Special Litigation
3 Asha Greenberg, Assistant City Attorney, SBN 107375
4 Jule Bishop, Deputy City Attorney, SBN 134484
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Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

JUN 13 2013

LOS ANGELES
SUPERIOR COURT

NO FEE - GOV'T CODE § 6103

Attorneys for Plaintiff

8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CENTRAL DISTRICT

11 PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

Case No.: BC 465364

12 *Plaintiff,*

~~PROPOSED~~ STIPULATED
JUDGMENT AS TO DEFENDANTS
John Williams also known as John
Charles Williams, as an officer and
as an individual; Byron M. Mitchell
also known as Byron Maurice
Mitchell, as an officer and as an
individual; Charles Cheatham also
known as Charles Edward
Cheatham, as an officer and an
individual; Lionel Ricks also known
as Lionel Daniel Ricks, as an officer
and as an individual; Keith Williams
also known as Keith Edward
Williams as an individual; Tommy
Earl Johnson as an officer of "The
Chosen Few", a California
Corporation and as an individual;
Raymond Sullivan also known as
Sullivan Raymond Meyer ONLY;
PERMANENT INJUNCTION; ORDER
TO RECORD

13 vs.

14 "Chosen Few M.C.", Business Form Unknown;
15 John Williams also known as John Charles
16 Williams, Byron M. Mitchell also known as Byron
17 Maurice Mitchell, Charles Cheatham also known as
18 Charles Edward Cheatham, Lionel Ricks also
19 known as Lionel Daniel Ricks, as officers and
20 individuals; Floyd Hobdy also known as Floyd
21 Calvin Hobdy, an individual; Keith Williams also
22 known as Keith Edward Williams, an individual;
23 "The Chosen Few", a California corporation;
24 Tommy Earl Johnson, as an officer of The Chosen
25 Few, a California corporation and an individual;
26 George Charles also known as George Alfred
27 Charles, an individual; Gregory Jones also known
28 as Gregory Joe Jones, an individual; Andre
McCombs also known as Andre Lamar McCombs,
an individual; James O'Neal also known as James
Quincy O'Neal, an individual; Maurice Sampson, an
individual; Raymond Sullivan also known as
Sullivan Raymond Meyer, an individual; Senecca
De Mon Terrell also known as Sterling Terrell, an
individual; Steven Wroten also known as Steven
Joseph Wroten, an individual; and DOES 1 through
100 inclusive,

Defendants.

Unlimited Action

The Honorable Mark Mooney
Assigned to Dept. 68, Room 617
Complaint filed: July 14, 2011

1 Maurice Sampson; (7) Senecca De Mon Terrell also known as Sterling Terrell; (8) Steven
2 Wroten also known as Steven Joseph Wroten; and (9) Andre McCombs also known as Andrew
3 Lamar McCombs (collectively, "Defaulting Defendants (9)");

4 WHEREAS, Responding Defendants include the Owner Defendants and
5 Officer/Manager Defendants, who were owners, officers, and or managers of the Property;

6 WHEREAS, the parties agree that Plaintiff is the prevailing party in this action and the
7 Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and the real property located at 10800 S.
8 Broadway, Los Angeles, California. Defendant Chosen Few M.C., now known as an
9 unincorporated association, with joint tenants John Williams also known as John Charles
10 Williams, Byron M. Mitchell also known as Byron Maurice Mitchell, Charles Cheatham also
11 known as Charles Edward Cheatham and Lionel Ricks also known as Lionel Daniel Ricks are
12 presently and jointly the sole and current owners of the Property;

13 WHEREAS, Owner Defendants and Officer/Manager Defendants agree that Chosen
14 Few M.C. is an unincorporated association;

15 WHEREAS, Owner Defendants and Officer/Manager Defendants agree that the
16 Property is owned and operated by the Chosen Few, M.C. an unincorporated association, with
17 joint tenants John Williams also known as John Charles Williams, Byron M. Mitchell also
18 known as Byron Maurice Mitchell, Charles Cheatham also known as Charles Edward
19 Cheatham and Lionel Ricks also known as Lionel Daniel Ricks are presently and jointly the
20 sole and current owners of the Property, and that these are the only entities currently holding
21 authority over the Property, and the entirety of the Club's assets.

22 WHEREAS, Officer/Manager Defendants agree that they each had a prior association
23 with the Chosen Few, M.C., but do not currently exercise any control over the Property, and
24 have no possession or claim to any of the assets, including bank accounts, or the Property or
25 any items on the Property;

26 WHEREAS, Owner Defendants and Officer/Manager Defendants agree that Owner
27 Defendants are exercising their undisputed authority to control the Property with this Stipulated
28 Judgment, both within the business entity of the Chosen Few M.C., an unincorporated

1 association, and "The Chosen Few", a California Corporation (suspended) each as officers and
2 individuals;

3 WHEREAS, defendant owners are split in their response to this action; Chosen Few,
4 M.C., unincorporated association, is now in default and has not responded to the case; the
5 other joint tenants, the Owner Defendants, responded to the Complaint;

6 WHEREAS, the Plaintiff and Owner Defendants and Officer/Manager Defendants
7 hereby desire to resolve all matters arising from this Action between them; and

8 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the following covenants and agreements, the
9 Parties agree as follows:

10 **1. Retention of Jurisdiction by This Court**

11 The Parties hereby jointly request that this Court retain jurisdiction over the subject
12 matter of this Action and over the Parties personally until final performance of the terms of this
13 Stipulated Judgment. This includes the tolling of any applicable statute, rule or court order
14 affecting timely prosecution of this Action, including the five (5) year dismissal statute.
15 Jurisdiction is retained by this Court for the purpose of enabling any of the Parties to this
16 Stipulated Judgment to apply to this Court at any time for such order or directions as may be
17 necessary or appropriate for the construction, operation, modification, enforcement of or
18 compliance with the terms of this Stipulated Judgment.

19 **2. Injunctive Relief as to the Owner Defendants Only**

- 20 A. Do not allow the use of the property as a meeting place and a place of business for
21 the Chosen Few M.C., an unincorporated association, and serve the current officers
22 of this entity with notice of the prohibition of use of this property;
- 23 B. Provide a copy of this Stipulated Judgment to all Parties in this action, including the
24 the individuals representing the current officers of the Chosen Few M.C., an
25 unincorporated association. Keep a record of the date and time the Stipulated
26 Judgment was served.
- 27 C. Do not allow the property to be used or operated for the sale of alcohol, the sale of
28 narcotics, the sale of weapons, the sale of all illegal substances, used as a

1 nightclub, motorcycle club, tattoo parlor, pool hall, or any other club.

2 D. Do not allow George Charles, also known as George Alfred Charles, Gregory Jones
3 also known as Gregory Joe Jones, Andre McCombs also known as Andre Lamar
4 McCombs, James O'Neal also known as James Quincy O'Neal, Senecca De Mon
5 Terrell also known as Sterling Terrell, and Steven Wroten also known as Steven
6 Joseph Wroten, access to the Property, including the adjacent parking area, for the
7 duration of the effectiveness of this order.

8 E. Report any violations of the prohibition in 2.D. to the Los Angeles Police Department
9 ("LAPD") within twenty four hours of the noted presence.

10 F. Require that all potential lessees of the Property complete a written rental
11 application, including information about past commercial tenancies, in order to
12 ensure that the proposed business activities are lawful.

13 G. Do not permit any lessee or its employees, or patrons of the Property, to conduct
14 any illegal activity at the Property.

15 H. Maintain a written lease agreement with all lessees of the Property that prohibits the
16 use of the Property for illegal purpose. Take all necessary steps to promptly
17 terminate the lease of and evict any lessee who engages in or permits any illegal
18 activity to occur at or in the immediate vicinity of the Property upon being informed of
19 or obtaining evidence of such illegal activity.

20 I. Retain copies of all lease agreements and immediately provide them to any law
21 enforcement officer, the Court, and/or the City Attorney upon request;

22 J. Visit and inspect the Property twice a month.

23 K. Immediately contact the Los Angeles Police Department regarding all criminal
24 activity of which you are aware, or become aware, that occurs at or in the immediate
25 vicinity of the Property that is connected to the Property. Instruct all employees,
26 agents, lessees, representatives and those in concert with you to do the same.

27 L. Cooperate fully and instruct all employees, agents, lessees, representative and
28 those acting in concert with you to cooperate fully with any investigation by the

1 LAPD at or in the immediate vicinity of the Property. Provide law enforcement
2 personnel access to the Property at all times. Require that all employees, agents,
3 lessees, representatives and those acting in concert with you cooperate with law
4 enforcement during such inspections, and refrain from warning any customers,
5 employees, guests or other persons of the presence of such officers, either
6 undercover or uniformed.

7 M. Maintain a list of individuals with access to the property, including their full names,
8 address and telephone numbers. Monikers or "nick" names may be included but are
9 not sufficient for this purpose.

10 N. Comply with all laws and regulatory orders, including but not limited to, orders issued
11 by the Department of Building and Safety, or any other government agency.

12 O. Immediately cease operation of the Property as a Chosen Few, M.C. clubhouse.

13 P. Owner Defendants agree to sell the Property to a bona fide purchaser for value who
14 is not affiliated with any of the defendants in this case or with the Chosen Few
15 Motorcycle Club or any other motorcycle club. Owner Defendants shall use their
16 best efforts to market and sell the Property and not refuse any reasonable offers to
17 purchase the Property.

18 Q. Owners Defendants agree to contact Plaintiff with details of the sales transaction
19 and to keep Plaintiff apprised of progress of the sale of the Property.

20 **2.a. Injunctive Relief As to Owner Defendants and Officer/Manager Defendants:**

21 A. Owner Defendants and Officer/Manager Defendants shall not operate a
22 motorcycle clubhouse within the City of Los Angeles for ten (10) years from the date of this
23 Judgment.

24 B. Owner Defendants and Officer/Manager Defendants shall not own or operate or
25 be involved in the operation of a physical facility for the use of the Chosen Few M.C., an
26 unincorporated association, within the City of Los Angeles, for ten (10) years from the date of
27 this Judgment.

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1 **3. Order of Abatement**

2 A. The Court finds that the Property, including all buildings and structures thereon,
3 is a narcotics and public nuisance in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11570 *et seq.*
4 and Civil Code section 3479, *et seq.* and the Court issues an Order of Abatement as part of
5 the Judgment herein. Any costs awarded to Plaintiff herein are a Judgment Lien upon the
6 Property, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11579.

7 B. The Court further finds that the Defendants permitted and conducted a public
8 nuisance at the Property in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11570, *et seq.* and
9 Civil Code section 3479, *et seq.* and Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.*

10 **4. Monetary Judgment**

11 A. The parties agree that more than 2,500 hours of investigative work was required
12 to discover, document and enforce the laws regarding crimes on or adjacent to this property
13 and that Plaintiff incurred subsequent legal costs in bringing and prosecuting this action.

14 B. Owner Defendants and Officer/Manager Defendants shall pay Plaintiff a total of
15 (\$50,000) for investigative costs and attorneys' fees and amounts due under Government
16 Code section 6103.5. This amount shall be recorded as a Judgment Lien against the property,
17 for Plaintiff's costs, fees, penalties and fines in this action. Any future costs relating to
18 enforcement and/or modification of the Judgment shall also be recoverable by Plaintiff in a
19 sum according to proof, and only against the Property.

20 C. It is expressly understood that Owner Defendants and Officer/Manager
21 Defendants shall not be considered prevailing parties for the purposes of any law or statute
22 entitling them to attorney's fees and /or litigation costs. Owner Defendants and
23 Officer/Manager Defendants shall bear their own costs and attorneys fees.

24 D. Amounts owing under this Stipulated Judgment shall be satisfied from the
25 proceeds of the sale of the Property.

26 **5. Removal of *Lis Pendens***

27 Once escrow is opened for sale of the Property in conformity with this Stipulated
28 Judgment, Plaintiff shall provide the escrow company with a withdrawal of *lis pendens* to be

1 recorded when the sale is completed.

2 **6. Violation of Stipulated Judgment and Motion to Enforce**

3 If there is a violation of any terms of this Stipulated Judgment, and Plaintiff is required to
4 bring a motion to enforce the terms of this Stipulated Judgment, Plaintiff shall recover
5 attorneys' fees and investigative costs and civil penalties up to \$25,000.00 per violation against
6 individuals and/or parties found responsible for the violation.

7 **7. Order to Record**

8 Plaintiff is ordered to record this Judgment in the Office of the County Recorder, and
9 upon full satisfaction of relief as provided above, agrees to the release of any and all liens
10 against the property.

11 **Parties:**

12 PLAINTIFF:

13 Carmen A. Trutanich, City Attorney
14 Asha Greenberg, Assistant City Attorney

15
16 Julie Bishop
17 Julie Bishop, Deputy City Attorney
18 ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
19 PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

21 Feb 2013
Date

20 OWNER DEFENDANTS AND OFFICER/MANAGER DEFENDANTS

21
22 John Charles Williams
23 John Charles Williams, as officer and individual

12-6-2012
Date

24 Charles Edward Cheatham
25 Charles Edward Cheatham, as officer and individual

18 DEC 2012
Date

26 Lionel Daniel Ricks
27 Lionel Daniel Ricks, as officer and individual

12-6-12
Date

1 *Sullivan P Meyer*
2 Sullivan Raymond Meyer, as an individual
3 Date 12/6/2012

4 *Tommy Earl Johnson*
5 Tommy Earl Johnson, as officer and individual
6 Date 12/12/12

7 *[Signature]*
8 Brian Williams Esq, Attorney for Tommy Earl Johnson
9 Date 12/11/12

10 *[Signature]*
11 Keith Edward Williams, as an individual
12 Date 2/11/13

13 *[Signature]*
14 Nicholas McGrue, Esq, Attorney for Keith Edward Williams
15 Date 2/11/13

16 *Byron Maurice Mitchell*
17 Byron Maurice Mitchell, as officer and individual
18 Date 1-12-13

19 *[Signature]*
20 Ralph Harrison, Esq, Attorney for Byron Maurice Mitchell
21 Date 1/28/13

22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23 DATED: 02/13/13
24

25
26 *[Signature]*
27 **MARK W. MOONEY** SUPERIOR COURT
28