



Sarasota Police Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Operation Sarasota Cartel II News Release

SARASOTA, Fla. – February 4, 2014 – 2:30 p.m.

In August 2012, the Sarasota Police Department Bureau of Criminal Investigations began ‘**Operation Sarasota Cartel II.**’ This was a joint investigation between the Sarasota Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the State Attorney’s Office for the 12th Judicial District.

In January 2014, the investigation culminated with a series of search warrants. This was able to be completed by the Sarasota Police Department with the help of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the State Attorney’s Office for the 12th Judicial District, and the DEA Tampa District Office which included members from the Bradenton Police Department and the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office.

‘**Operation Sarasota Cartel II**’ utilized numerous investigative techniques leading to legally intercept telephone calls of suspected drug dealers and traffickers in the Sarasota area. “The narcotics coming into this area were meant for the Sarasota and Bradenton area. The amount of drugs, money and cars we seized are of historic value for the Sarasota Police Department,” said Lt. Pat Ledwith, Bureau of Criminal Investigations, Sarasota Police Department.

18-Month Investigation Facts:

- \$115,000 seized in U.S. currency
- 12 Kilos of Powder Cocaine recovered (Street value more than \$500,000)
- 5 automobiles seized under Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act
- 8 search warrants executed
- 10 people arrested (3 to 15 years in prison)

“Those who we arrested are major drug suppliers and dealers in the drug trade. We’ve arrested 10 people who are major distributors and drug traffickers in our area. This is one of the most significant investigations ever done by the Bureau of Criminal Investigations Narcotics Division within the City of Sarasota,” said Lt. James Rieser, Bureau of Criminal Investigations, Sarasota Police Department.

(Continued)

Operation Sarasota Cartel II Arrests:

****Each suspect is looking at three to 15 years in prison****



Irvin Donte Brown

Date of Birth: 4-23-1987 (Age 26)

Charges:

- Trafficking in Cocaine (29 – 200 grams)
- Sale of Cocaine
- Conspiracy of Traffic Cocaine (200 to 400 grams)

Criminal History: Robbery, Aggravated Battery, Narcotics



Roderick Shannon

Date of Birth: 2-28-1969 (Age 44)

Charges:

- Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine over 400 grams

Criminal History: Fraud, Theft, Burglary



Al Muta Hawks

Date of Birth: 3-2-1977 (Age 36)

Charges:

- Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine over 400 grams

Criminal History: Weapons, Narcotics, Fleeing

****Also on Federal Probation for Weapons Charges****



Alex Hernando Gomez

Date of Birth: 4-15-1967 (Age 46)

Charges:

- Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine over 400 grams

Criminal History: Burglary, Robbery, Narcotics, Trafficking

Operation Sarasota Cartel II Arrests Continued:



Kewarren Lamar Jones

Date of Birth: 4-3-1970 (Age 43)

Charges:

- Traffic in Cocaine - 2 counts
- Sale of Crack Cocaine

Criminal History: On Federal Probation for Weapons Charges



Reginald Eugene Brown

Date of Birth: 5-16-1977 (Age 36)

Charges:

- Sale of Crack Cocaine within 1,000 feet of Public Housing
- Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine
- Possession with Intent to Sell



Shane Kendall Phillips Austin

Date of Birth: 1-18-1986 (Age 28)

Charges:

- Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine



Reginald Maurice Williams

Date of Birth: 7-3-1975 (Age 38)

Charges:

- Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine

(Continued)

Operation Sarasota Cartel II Arrests Continued:



Demond Williams

Date of Birth: 12-16-1973 (Age 40)

Charges:

- Sale of Crack Cocaine within 1,000 feet of a Public Park



Guss Jackson

Date of Birth: 1-23-1971 (Age 43)

Charges:

- Sale of Crack Cocaine within 1,000 feet of a Public Park

For the Media:

- B-Roll Video provided on our YouTube Channel and given on DVD at the news conference
- Photos of drugs, currency & vehicles will be posted on our Facebook page – www.Facebook.com/SarasotaPoliceDepartment
- Booking photos are above & will also be posted on our Facebook page

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Sarasota Police Department

The Sarasota Police Department utilizes a proactive, intelligence led law enforcement strategy to prevent and reduce crime. Our mission: Professional, dedicated police service in partnership with our community. For more information about our department, visit www.sarasotapd.org

The Sarasota Police Department is also on social media:

www.facebook.com/SarasotaPoliceDepartment

www.twitter.com/SarasotaPD

www.instagram.com/SarasotaPoliceDept

www.youtube.com/SarasotaPoliceDept