



Department of Justice

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Western District of North Carolina**

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FOUR ARRESTED ON FEDERAL DRUG, GUN & ROBBERY CHARGES

Four More Arrested on Criminal State Charges

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A total of eight defendants have been arrested on federal and state criminal charges during a two-day roundup conducted by the FBI, ATF and CMPD, announced Anne M. Tompkins, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina. Four of the defendants are charged with federal drug, gun and robbery offenses and four face state drug charges.

U.S. Attorney Tompkins is joined in making today's announcement by Roger A. Coe, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Charlotte Division; Wayne L. Dixie, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Charlotte Field Division; Andrew Murray, District Attorney for Mecklenburg County; and Chief Rodney D. Monroe, of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD).

Today's arrests and indictments are the result of a cross-jurisdictional and multi-agency investigation conducted by the FBI, ATF and CMPD. The goal of the investigation is to target and reduce violent crime in Mecklenburg County, with special emphasis placed on the Milton Road Corridor in northeast Charlotte.

Six of the eight defendants were apprehended on Tuesday, December 18, 2012. One more defendant was arrested earlier this morning. Those facing federal charges are, Maurice Stuckey, 20, Ronald Centeno, 22, Arthur Thornton, 21, and Shaquan Howell, 23, all of Charlotte. Stuckey, Centeno, and Thornton made their initial appearances in federal court yesterday. Howell, who was arrested this morning, had his initial appearance today before Magistrate Judge David S. Cayer. (See chart below for a breakdown of federal charges and maximum penalties for each defendant).

Earlier this month, a fifth federal defendant connected to the investigation, Deshawn Lewis, 28, was charged with and pleaded guilty to federal firearms offenses on December 11, 2012.

The three arrested yesterday on state drug charges are Milton Collins, 27, of Charlotte, George Martinez, 28, of New York, and John Cunningham, also of New York. Marchonday Wall, 39, was arrested on Friday, December 14, 2012, and also faces state drug offenses.

In making today's announcement U.S. Attorney Tompkins thanked the U.S. Probation Office, the North Carolina Division of Community Corrections and North Carolina's Alcohol Law Enforcement for their assistance in this case.

The charges contained in these indictments are allegations. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The investigation is being handled by the FBI, ATF and CMPD. The three law enforcement agencies are partner members of the Charlotte FBI Safe Streets Task Force, which is dedicated to investigating violent crime and making our streets and communities safer.

The prosecution for the government is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Greene of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Charlotte. Prosecution for the state charges is handled by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office.

Federal Defendant	Federal Charge	Penalties
Deshawn Lewis	One count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.	Mandatory minimum of 5 years imprisonment to a maximum of life, and \$250,000 fine
Arthur Thornton	One count of possession with intent to distribute marijuana *** One count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime	Maximum of 5 years imprisonment, and \$250,000 fine *** Mandatory minimum of 5 years imprisonment to a maximum of life, and \$250,000 fine
Shaquan Howell	Two counts of possession with intent to distribute marijuana *** Two counts of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime	Maximum of 5 years imprisonment, and \$250,000 fine per count *** 1st count a minimum of 7 years imprisonment to a maximum of life, and \$250,000 fine 2nd count a minimum of 25 years imprisonment to a maximum of life, and \$250,000 fine

Maurice Stuckey	<p>One count of attempted Hobbs Act Robbery</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>One count of Carjacking</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>Two counts of possession of a firearm during a crime of violence</p>	<p>Maximum of 20 years imprisonment, and \$250,000 fine</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>Maximum of 15 years imprisonment, and \$250,000 fine</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>1st count a minimum of 10 years imprisonment to a maximum of life, and \$250,000 fine</p> <p>2nd count a minimum of 25 years imprisonment to a maximum of life, and \$250,000 fine</p>
Ronald Centeno	<p>One count of attempted Hobbs Act Robbery</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>One count of Carjacking</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>Two counts of possession of a firearm during a crime of violence</p>	<p>Maximum of 20 years imprisonment, and \$250,000 fine</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>Maximum of 15 years imprisonment, and \$250,000 fine</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>1st count a minimum of 7 years imprisonment to a maximum of life, and \$250,000 fine</p> <p>2nd count a minimum of 25 years imprisonment to a maximum of life, and \$250,000 fine</p>

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