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For Immediate Release

September 14, 2011

**SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT IN RACKETEERING CASE FILED AGAINST
VIOLENT SOUTHWEST PHILADELPHIA DRUG GANG**

A superseding indictment¹ was unsealed today adding three additional defendants and 16 additional counts against members of the “Harlem Boys”, a violent street gang operating in Southwest Philadelphia’s Bartram Village Housing Development (“BVHD”). Among the new charges are several crimes of violence and threats in aid of racketeering, Hobbs Act robberies, and drug distribution counts.

Added to the indictment were:

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Anthony Freeman	Philadelphia	26
Kareem Pitman	Philadelphia	20
Charles Hamm	In Custody	45

The defendants in this case are charged in an 89-count indictment with conspiracy to participate in a racketeering enterprise, drug conspiracy, assault in aid of racketeering attempted murder in aid of racketeering, threats, attempted Hobbs Act robbery, carjacking, distribution and possession with the intent to distribute cocaine base (“crack”) and marijuana, use of a telephone facility in furtherance of a drug crime, carrying and using a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence and a drug trafficking crime, convicted felon in possession of a firearm, engaging in the illegal sale of firearms, maintaining a drug involved premises, receipt of an unregistered short barreled rifle, and aiding and abetting.

From at least 2001 until October 2010, these defendants participated in a violent drug operation in and around the BVHD. The gang distributed various controlled substances through

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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their enterprise, including but not limited to cocaine base (“crack”) and marijuana. Most, if not all of the drug distribution was done within 1,000 feet of the Richard Allen Preparatory School, as well as on or near the playground and basketball courts within the BVHD.

Members of the enterprise and their associates committed acts of violence, and attempted or threatened to commit acts of violence, including murder and robbery, in order to protect and expand the criminal enterprise, and to promote a climate of fear through violence and intimidation. This violence was directed at outsiders who entered or attempted to enter the BVHD without the consent of the enterprise as well as against persons whom they believed might be trying to sell controlled substances within the BVHD. They traded guns among themselves to use during these violent crimes, and utilized the guns in furtherance of their drug operation, to protect themselves, their drugs, and their drug profits.

The Harlem Boys and their associates used apartments, including those rented by Melika Parker Roneisha Scott, and Kareem Pittman, inside the BVHD, to stash and cook cocaine base (“crack”) and firearms, and as sales locations for controlled substances.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Philadelphia Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Salvatore L. Astolfi.

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