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David H. Hayes
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Press Release

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

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Alton, IL - Alton Police Chief David Hayes will be holding a press conference on Wednesday, August 31, 2011 at 11:00 AM at that Alton Law Enforcement Center located at 1700 E. Broadway, Alton, Illinois 62002 to announce the results of Operation "*Crackdown Redemption*".

Operation *Crackdown Redemption* is the culmination of an 8 month investigation of street level drug traffickers and violent offenders in and around Alton Illinois, which has resulted in the issuance of dozens of arrest warrants on various charges relating to drugs, guns and violent offenses.

The final arrest phase of "*Crackdown Redemption*" began at 6:00 am this morning with numerous law enforcements officers initiating the round up of the remaining at-large defendants. (Please don't pre-release this information)

Agencies participating in this mornings arrest operation are the Alton Police Department, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Corrections (Parole Division), Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the United States Marshalls for the Southern District of Illinois.

The investigation was led by the Alton Police Department Narcotics Unit and included assistance from the Madison County States Attorney's Office and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois.

There will be poster boards on display with photographs during the press conference.

Early this morning, members of the Alton Police Department, the Illinois State Police, Illinois Dept of Corrections, ATF and the US Marshalls in the Southern District of Illinois began the final round-up of the 24 remaining at-large defendants that have been charged as part of Operation Crackdown Redemption.

Operation Crackdown Redemption has been an 8 month covert investigation of street level cocaine and heroin drug traffickers and other violent offenders in and around Alton. In total, there have been 44 arrest warrants issued in this case.

As of 1030 this morning, we have arrested 10 of the remaining 24 defendants along with 2 additional defendants on new drug offenses.

The primary strategy of the investigation was to target violence associated to street level drug trafficking and illegal guns.

Some of these defendants will be prosecuted by the US Attorney's Office because they are violent repeat offenders and qualify for enhanced sentencing at the federal level.

During this investigation, prosecutors from the Madison County States Attorneys Office and the United States Attorneys office met at the Alton Police Department, once a month, to discuss and plan investigation strategy.

2 Keys to the success of this operation

Over this past year, we have seen a noticeable increase in the cooperation of our neighborhood residents.

Our officers recognize the importance of going after drug offenders and its association to violence.

We are trying to concentrate on working with our residents and using their information to go after these criminals. Without this important partnership between police and citizens, these operations cannot be successful and we sincerely appreciate their efforts in keeping their neighborhoods safe.