



MULTI-AGENCY GANG UNIT WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

MGU Raid Shuts Down Gang Drug House in Southwest Memphis

March 20, 2017 -- A home in a southwest Memphis neighborhood plagued by gang violence and drug trafficking was closed Monday as a public nuisance and its occupant was arrested, said Shelby County Dist. Atty. Gen. Amy Weirich.

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Charlie “Loddie” Miller, 36, was arrested on drug charges following an investigation by the Multi-Agency Gang Unit and his home at 477 Delta Road was closed and sealed by court order.

Miller is accused of selling illegal drugs from his home which is in the area of Delta Road and Ford Road where street gangs including the Neighborhood Crips and the Grape Street Crips are prevalent.

The residence also is about one mile from Manor Lake Elementary School and Geeter Middle School.

Since January of 2015, police have been called 3,000 times to the area within ½ mile of 477 Delta, including those related to 190 criminal offenses involving aggravated assaults, rapes, robberies, drug trafficking and intimidation.

In January of this year, two men – Joe Lobbins, 31, and Charles Coleman, 32– were killed in front of nearby 521 Delta in a drive-by shooting that investigators say was the result of a gang feud between the Bloods and the Crips.

The investigation revealed several men in a passing vehicle fired more than 30 shots, killing the two men, injuring two others and placing numerous bystanders in danger. That case remains under investigation. In recent months, numerous pedestrians and motorists have stopped for brief periods at 477 Delta Road, activity that is consistent with drug trafficking.

Miller’s home was closed as a public nuisance after Judge Larry Potter of General Sessions Environmental Court Division 14 signed a closure petition filed by Gen. Weirich and City Atty. Bruce McMullen.

“We are not going to allow gangs to turn this area into the Wild West,” said Gen. Weirich. “This property is an uncontrolled danger and a nuisance, and we are determined to do whatever it takes to make this a safe neighborhood once again.”

Miller is scheduled to be arraigned on his drug case on Tuesday. He was the target of two previous Organized Crime Unit investigations. In 2011, eight drug-related arrests were made at the property. Two years later, police armed with a search warrant seized drug paraphernalia, including digital scales, sandwich bags and a large glass jar with marijuana residue. Miller was issued a citation.

A show-cause hearing on Miller’s nuisance case is set for 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday March 22, according to Asst. Dist. Atty. Paul Hagerman and Asst. City Prosecutor Kenya Hooks.

The owner of the home, Tony A. Hardy, also is listed as a defendant on the petition.

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MGU Raid Shuts Down Gang Drug House in Southwest Memphis (cont)

Under Tennessee nuisance law, the District Attorney General has authority to bring a civil action against any establishment deemed a nuisance.

The statute defines a nuisance, in part, as "any place in or upon which. . .unlawful sale of any regulated legend drug, narcotic or other controlled substance. . .quarrelling, drunkenness, fighting or breaches of the peace are carried on or permitted."

The Multi-Agency Gang Unit consists of a board of directors; an advisory committee; an operations team and a prosecution team. The MGU Board of Directors is comprised of:

- Acting U. S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee Larry Laurenzi
- Michael Gavin, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Stephen Gerido, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- Shelby County District Attorney General Amy Weirich, (Chairperson of the Board)
- Shelby County Sheriff Bill Oldham
- Memphis Police Director Mike Rallings

The MGU Advisory committee is presently comprised of representatives from various federal, state and local governmental agencies. The MGU Board of Directors can agree to add members to the Advisory Committee.

The MGU's Operations Team currently includes officers and agents from area cities, counties and state and federal law enforcement agencies who have committed resources to the unit. The MGU Operations Team Commander is MPD Major Darren Goods.

The MGU Prosecution Team consists of Assistant United States Attorneys from the Western District and Assistant District Attorneys from the Shelby County District Attorney's Gang and Narcotics Prosecution Unit. The MGU Prosecution Team Commander is Paul Hagerman, Chief Prosecutor of the Shelby County District Attorney General's Gang and Narcotics Prosecution Unit.

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Similar investigations by law enforcement have resulted in the D.A.'s office filing nuisance petitions against the owners of more than 200 residential and business properties.

Some have resulted in permanent closure of the properties while others have reopened under consent orders to curb the crime.

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