U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas

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OPERATION WESTSIDE

Little Rock – Bud Cummins, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced today that a federal superseding indictment has been handed down against eight (8) new individuals for their role in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine and cocaine base. That brings the total number indicted in the case to eleven (11). On May 4, 2005 the following individuals were charged with Conspiracy to Possess with the Intent to Distribute and Distribution of in excess of 500 grams of cocaine and more than 50 grams of cocaine base, also known as "crack cocaine", in the Eastern District of Arkansas and elsewhere: Allison Mthimkhulu, age 24, of Searcy, Arkansas; Chiquita Burks, age 27, of Little Rock, Arkansas; Calvin Brown, age 30, of Little Rock, Arkansas; Tyrone Jackson, age 28, of Little Rock, Arkansas; Ayanna Edwards, age 24, of Little Rock, Arkansas; James Allen, age 23, of Little Rock, Arkansas; Tara Burks, age 23, of Little Rock, Arkansas; Steven Burks, age 20, of Little Rock, Arkansas. All are charged in the Conspiracy to Distribute Schedule II controlled substances in violation of Title 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) & 846.

The original indictment in this case filed April 6, 2005 charged three other individuals, all with known gang ties, in the aforementioned Conspiracy along with the following additional charges; Broderick Chunn, age 23, of Little Rock, Arkansas- one count of Use of a Communication Device to Facilitate a drug transaction in violation of Title 21 U.S.C. § 843 and five counts of Possession with the Intent to Distribute and Distribution of a Controlled Substance, cocaine base, in violation of Title 21 U.S.C. § 841; Robert Brevard, age 30, of Little Rock, Arkansas- one count of Possession with Intent to Distribute approximately 412 grams of cocaine and 299 grams of cocaine base, in violation of Title 21 U.S.C. § 841; and Keon Neeley age 28, of Little Rock, Arkansas- Possession with Intent to Distribute approximately 92 grams of cocaine, in violation of Title 21 U.S.C. § 841. The superseding indictment seeks drug-related forfeitures of cash and one vehicle from Stephan Burks, Allison Mthimkhulu, Chiquita Burks, Broderick Chunn, and Robert Brevard.

The statutory penalty for Conspiracy to Distribute in excess of 500 grams of cocaine and more than 50 grams of cocaine base is not less than 10 years imprisonment and/or a fine of not more than $ 4,000,000; for those individuals convicted of this offense with a prior felony drug conviction the statutory penalties of not less than 20 years imprisonment and/or fines of not more than $ 8,000,000 or both apply.

According to the Indictment, from January 2002 through March 1, 2005, all eleven (11) of the individuals listed above conspired with each other and others in the Eastern District of Arkansas. Investigative seizures to date account to $56,966.00 U.S. currency, $1^{1/2}$ Kilograms of Cocaine, 15 ounces of Cocaine Base, 10 dosage units of Ecstasy (MDMA), 30 pounds of Marijuana and one 2001 Dodge Dakota Pick-Up Truck.

This investigation is designated as an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force

(OCDETF) case. The indictment is the result of an investigation conducted jointly by the Drug Enforcement Administration; Little Rock Police Department; Arkansas State Police; Arkansas Highway Police; Jacksonville Police Department; Pulaski County Sheriff's Office; Pine Bluff Police Department; North Little Rock Police Department; Little Rock Police Department-Special Investigations Division; Pulaski County Prosecuting Attorney's Office; White County Sheriff's Office; White County Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Saline County Sheriff's Office; Cabot Police Department; Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the16th Judicial District Drug Task Force.

"DEA worked extraordinarily well with LRPD and other agencies in this case. Our teamwork in this investigation, is a clear example of the cooperation between federal, state and local law enforcement that has become the norm in the Eastern District of Arkansas," Cummins stated.

An indictment is only an allegation of wrongdoing. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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