



U.S. Department of Justice

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**For Immediate Release:**

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**Sep 15, 2009**

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**Event: Indictment**

**Defendant: Clarence Cohen et al**

**SIXTEEN MEMBERS OF A VIOLENT ARMED DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION  
INDICTED IN DRUG CASE**

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Sixteen individuals were indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and cocaine base. Additional charges were brought against several of the defendants for possession of firearms in connection with the drug offenses, United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

Berg was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Thomas Brandon of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Named in the indictment were:

Clarence Cohen, 27

Edward Myers, 38

Jessie Williams 22

Anthony Knight, 25  
Archie Bell, 39  
Willie Jones, 31  
Christopher Alexander, 35  
Michael Bell, 36  
Michael Damon Myers, 38  
Armando Taylor, 34  
Anthony McMorris, 33  
Natasha Hardie, 21  
Rickarsha Bell, 26  
Shawntea Brown, 21  
Salina Carter, 21  
Deniquah Reed, 19

All 16 individuals are Pontiac area residents.

The indictment charges that between late 2007 and 2009 these individuals conspired to distribute cocaine and crack in and around the Pontiac area. In July 2009, agents executed twelve federal search warrants and two state search warrants. The agents recovered firearms, narcotics and U.S. currency during the execution of the warrants. More than 76 law enforcement officers from the ATF, Michigan State Police, Pontiac State police, Auburn Hills police and the FBI were involved in the effort.

United States Attorney Terrence Berg said, "Crack destroys its users, their families, and their neighborhoods. We will spare no effort in pursuing the purveyors of this pernicious drug, disrupting their trade, and eliminating their organizations. I commend the excellent local - federal law enforcement team that conducted this investigation."

Special Agent Brandon stated that "The sixteen individuals indicted today are members of a violent organization that has terrorized the City of Pontiac and surrounding area for years. The public needs to see firearm and drug traffickers as being socially responsible for the

crimes that they commit. This investigation is another indication that ATF, along with its investigative partners, the Pontiac Police Department, Auburn Hill Police Department, Michigan State Police and the FBI will continue to aggressively pursue those violent individuals and gangs that grip our neighborhoods with crime."

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the ATF, and state and local law enforcement officials. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Kathryn McCarthy and Susan E. Gillooly.