



# U.S. ATTORNEY'S QUARTERLY

## Members of Latin Kings' Bethlehem Gang Charged

More than 150 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers arrested 33 defendants in the early morning hours of July 21, 2010. The charges range from drug and gun offenses, to running a violent drug organization and murder. The main indictment charges 12 members of the Latin Kings Bethlehem Sun Tribe in a racketeering conspiracy that included the murder of Eugene Martinez in Saucon Park in January of 2004. The majority of defendants are in custody awaiting trial. The Bethlehem Sun

Tribe is affiliated with the "Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation." According to the indictments, the group uses violence and intimidation as a means to maintain its power, profits, and territory. Members of the group are charged with dealing drugs, primarily cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine, in and around the Bethlehem, Allentown, and Easton areas. In addition to the 2004 murder in Saucon Park, the gang is allegedly responsible for at least two other attempted murders. The alleged leader of the group is 26-

year old **Luis Colon**, a/k/a "King Respect."

If convicted of all charges, each defendant faces a maximum sentence of up to life in prison.

The case is part of the "222 Corridor Anti-Gang Initiative," a federally funded program designed to defeat some of the most violent and pervasive gangs in the country. The initiative combines federal, state, and local law enforcement resources to attack gang crime and violence throughout the corridor.

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## A Message From the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

In my first 100 days in office, I have been busy meeting with members of my staff, the numerous federal agencies with whom we partner (ATF, DEA, FBI, ICE, to name a few), the distinguished jurists who comprise the district court, local district attorneys and police chiefs, some of the mayors who run the cities within our district, and various community groups. Throughout the process, time and again, I was reminded that we cannot arrest or prosecute our way out of our crime problem. Rather, the complex issues surrounding the crime problem will require members of this office to be present, not just in the courtroom, but in the community.

My conversations with law enforcement and members of the judiciary have prompted me to reach out to other individuals and groups in the community who work with juveniles at-risk for coming into the criminal justice system, and with offenders who need help finding their way back to a life before crime. I believe our office can serve as a catalyst for change, that we can help build on the collaborative efforts between law enforcement and the community to achieve a safer community

and to encourage others to make positive and law-abiding decisions. To further that mission, it is my goal to reach out to young people before they encounter the criminal justice system.

We also want to help communities take back their streets from crime and violence. We have found much success in this district joining local, state and federal law enforcement efforts to fight violent drug dealers in and around Philadelphia and along the Route 222 corridor. On June 24th, federal and local law enforcement joined forces to help Darby Borough address the crime problems caused by the Third Street Boys Crack Cocaine Organization. On June 9th, local and federal law enforcement agents arrested 11 members and associates of the Santana Drug Trafficking Organization (SDTO), which was operating in Reading. And in July we announced the dismantling of the Latin Kings Bethlehem Sun Tribe. The Latin King and SDTO cases are examples of the success we have had through the Route 222 Corridor Anti-Gang Initiative and are proof positive of what we can accomplish when we work with other

agencies toward a common goal of removing violent gangs from our streets.

Finally, the United States Attorney's Office is here to help guide crime victims to the appropriate investigative agency. If you have been the victim of a federal crime - mortgage fraud, identity theft, or financial fraud, to name just a few - or if you witness or know of crimes such as corruption, drug dealing, or illegal guns, you can call our office at: 215-861-8200. Our success in combating the crime problem is dependent upon witnesses coming forward and victims receiving help.

We intend to play an active role in serving the community not only in the court but in the neighborhoods and schools of this district, as well. -Zane David Memeger



## PHILADELPHIA POLICE OFFICERS CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION

An indictment was unsealed July 13, 2010 charging **Robert Snyder**, **Mark Williams**, and **James Venezia**, all Philadelphia police officers assigned to the 25<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> Districts, as well as Zachary Young, Angel Ortiz, Christal Snyder, and Miguel Santiago, in a drug conspiracy case involving heroin and related offenses. According to the indictment, the defendants planned and executed a scheme to steal heroin from defendant Santiago and then distribute that heroin to another person whom the defendants believed to be a drug dealer and money launderer, but who was, in reality, an undercover Special Agent from the Drug Enforcement Administration. Snyder, Venezia, and Williams allegedly abused their authority as police officers and agreed to assist defendants Young and Ortiz in the scheme to steal heroin from Santiago. According to the indictment, on May 14, 2010, immediately after Santiago's drug courier delivered 300 grams of heroin to Ortiz, Officers Williams and Venezia – who were on duty and in uniform – stopped defendant

Ortiz's vehicle while he was in possession of the 300 grams of heroin. With Santiago's courier watching nearby, Officers Williams and Venezia made it appear as if they were seizing the heroin and arresting defendant Ortiz by handcuffing him outside the vehicle Ortiz had occupied. The indictment alleges that, as a result of the co-conspirators obtaining the 300 grams of heroin without payment to Santiago, Ortiz paid defendants Williams and Venezia approximately \$6,000, and paid defendant Christal Snyder an additional amount of currency. Christal Snyder, the wife of Robert Snyder, allegedly facilitated the conspiracy by passing information, via text message or telephone, between defendants Ortiz and defendants Robert Snyder, Mark Williams and James Venezia. If convicted, each defendant faces a mandatory minimum term of five years in prison.

## City Government Corruption

On August 24, 2010, **Kenneth Gassman**, an inspector with the city Department of License and Inspections, was indicted on charges he used his position with L&I in an effort to cause a commercial property owner to sell his property to Gassman. The indictment alleges that after the property owner rejected Gassman's offers to purchase the property, Gassman tried to interfere with the owner's ability to sell the property to others by having L&I inspectors issue violations against the property. Gassman also allegedly vandalized the property, removed for sale signs, and used aliases to contact the city's 311 system with complaints that the property was unsafe.

On August 2, 2010, **Ramon Pabon**, a former Title Registration Aide for the City of Philadelphia Records Department, Recorder of Deeds, was sentenced to 24 months in prison for accepting money to prepare fraudulent deeds and deeds not authorized by the Records Department and for filing false tax returns. With the fraudulent deeds, the true property owners were unaware that their properties had been sold. Pabon received over \$46,295 in fees from these fraudulently and unlawfully prepared deeds and failed to report that income on his federal tax returns. As a result of these two cases and the corruption they exposed in the records department, the city has begun to overhaul how the department operates.

**Kelly Kaufmann Layre**, **Tina Meyrick**, **Paul Kling** and **Brian Daly** were charged July 29, 2010 with bribery relating to a corrupt scheme to sell and obtain traffic accident reports, police incident reports, and fire reports depriving the City of Philadelphia of hundreds of thousands of dollars in fees. Layre, a former employee of the City of Philadelphia Records Department allegedly solicited the bribes on a weekly basis and, in exchange, received approximately \$185,776. The scheme deprived the City of Philadelphia of over \$600,000 in fees.

The FBI and the Philadelphia Office of Inspector General investigated these cases.

## CORRUPT COP SENTENCED

On July 23, 2010, former Philadelphia police officer **Alhinde Weems**, 34, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for his conviction on drug and firearm charges. Between December 2008 and January 2009, while employed as a Philadelphia police officer, Weems intentionally distributed crack cocaine two times and attempted to distribute a kilogram of cocaine on another occasion. In March 2009, Weems planned to rob someone he believed to be another drug dealer and planned to use several firearms to commit this robbery, including his Philadelphia Police Department service weapon. Weems planned to use his authority as a police officer to commit the robbery by "badging" his way in and/or dressing like an officer and/or detective. In reality, the drug dealer was an undercover ATF agent. Weems pleaded guilty to two counts of distribution of crack, one count each of attempt to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine and attempt to commit a Hobbs Act robbery, and use of a firearm in the course of a violent crime.



### Sidenote:

You can find press releases about the cases we charge on our website:

[www.justice.gov/usao/pae](http://www.justice.gov/usao/pae)





## VOCABULARY: Clean Water Act

The objective of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act (CWA), is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters by preventing pollution, providing assistance to publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities, and maintaining the integrity of wetlands. The Clean Water Act makes it unlawful to discharge oil or hazardous substances into or upon waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines in quantities that may be harmful to the environment or public health. Violations of the Clean Water Act are typically investigated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and can be prosecuted criminally or resolved through a civil settlement.

## CRIMEBUSTERS: EPA

### BEEF PROCESSOR PAYS \$2 MILLION

On June 16, 2010, our office announced that JBS Souderton, Inc., formerly known as Smithfield Beef Group, which operates a beef processing plant in Franconia Township, Montgomery County, PA, entered into a Consent Decree with the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to resolve allegations that the company failed to comply with the Clean Water Act and the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law. Some of the violations that were alleged had resulted in fish kills. The Consent Decree requires JBS to improve the manner by which it operates and maintains its plant; to reconstruct the system that conveys water to its waste water treatment plant; and to pay federal and state authorities a total of \$2 million in civil penalties.

An interview with EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin.:

#### -What is the EPA's mission?

EPA's mission is to protect public health and the environment – air, water and land. For 40 years, the EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people.

#### -How did you decide to join the EPA?

In 1997, I was appointed by the Clinton Administration when Michael McCabe, who was the Regional Administrator at the time, asked me to come aboard as his special assistant. It was a challenge I couldn't resist and I saw it as a real opportunity make a difference on issues that I care about.

#### -What do you think is the most important function of the EPA?

The most important function of our agency is to protect public health and the environment based on sound science and the law. It's my responsibility to make sure that the Agency and our regional office delivers clear and consistent messages to all of our stakeholders including state and local governments, the regulated community, non-governmental organizations, the media and the public. Internally, my most important job is to promote a culture of open communication, accountability, and teamwork in carrying out our mission.

#### -What do you like best about your job?

As Regional Administrator I feel like I have a tremendous opportunity to make a difference every day. I'm honored and humbled to have been chosen by the Obama Administration to lead a staff of around 900 of the most talented and dedicated people I've ever encountered.

And, when I get home I get to look my 9 year-old son in the eye knowing that I did my best to protect the environment for him, his generation, and generations to come.

The best way to reach this agency is through the hotline: 1-800-438-2474.

## Bristol Camp "DEFY's" The Odds

Disaster almost struck for children in Bristol Township's Weed and Seed community. Local leaders planned to take 27 excited children to a weeklong DEFY summer camp at Ft. Indiantown Gap, Pa. in early August. National Guard leaders phoned a month before camp was set to start saying housing was no longer available. But Weed and Seed leaders didn't give up. "If we can't have the camp there, we'll have the camp here," said camp director Erica Hill. Bristol Township Weed and Seed leaders and members of the PA National Guard joined forces to create a true DEFY camp experience for children right in their own back yard in Bristol. DEFY, or Drug Education for Youth, is a national Weed and Seed camp experience aimed at teaching young people how to stay away from drugs and make positive choices. The young people, aged 9-12, met each day at the Freedom Neighborhood One (Bristol Weed and Seed) Community Center. Guard leaders drilled the kids on discipline and teamwork over breakfast. Each day afterward, the kids went on an adventure to different sites and attractions: bowling, obstacle courses, swimming, running, hiking. Along the way, counselors taught the kids respect for self and others, as well as other life lessons. The camp ended with a fun day of swimming, basketball, rock climbing and all the food you can eat at Neshaminy Shore Picnic Park. "It took a lot of work to pull the camp together at the last minute, but we did it," said Hill, who also serves on the Bristol Weed and Seed Prevention Committee. "I think the kids will remember this camp for a long time to come."



## CRIME & PUNISHMENT:

### Charged:

The owner of several property management businesses, including D&B Property Investors ("D&B"), was charged June 23, 2010 with mortgage fraud related offenses. **Gennaro Rauso** allegedly contacted at least 200 financially distressed homeowners and offered to help them avoid foreclosure on their homes. Once a homeowner agreed to participate, Rauso caused the homeowner to transfer the property title over to him, or an entity controlled by him, then caused the homeowner to sign a lease, making the homeowner a tenant who paid rent to Rauso. Rauso pleaded guilty July 13, 2010. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for November 17, 2010.

On June 24, 2010, alleged members of the Third Street Boys Crack Cocaine Organization, **Allen Watters, Jabaar McCray, Reginald Brown, Kile Lowman, Kurtis Martin, Wendall Parks, Tracey Serrano, Jamaal Burton, Jameel Burton, Steven Jonque, Emanuel Rogers, and Gregory Graham**, were named in a 54-count indictment charging that they conspired to distribute 50 grams or more of cocaine base ("crack"), from 2007 to 2010, in Darby Borough, Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

An indictment, unsealed June 30, 2010, charges five brothers: **Omelyan Botsvynyuk, Stepan Botsvynyuk, Mykhaylo Botsvynyuk, Dmytro Botsvynyuk, and Yaroslav Botsvynyuk, a/k/a Yaroslav Churuk**, with extortion and conspiracy to violate the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), by operating a human trafficking organization which smuggled young Ukrainian immigrants into the United States and then forced them to work for little or no pay. The defendants smuggled the workers into the U.S., put them to work as cleaning crews without paying them, and used physical force, threats of force, sexual assault, and debt bondage to keep the victims in involuntary servitude.

**Christopher Vassalluzzo**, D.O. was charged June 30, 2010 in a drug trafficking conspiracy. The defendant was allegedly operating a "pill mill", distributing millions of prescription diet drugs outside a professional practice over the course of a decade in Northeast Philadelphia. Vassalluzzo is also charged with structuring and aggravated structuring of some of the millions of dollars in cash the pill sales generated.

### Convicted:

**Donald Anthony Young** pleaded guilty July 20, 2010 in connection with a \$25 million dollar fraud scheme. While operating Acorn Capital Management II LP, and Acorn Capital Management LLC in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, Young solicited individuals to invest with him, obtained more than \$95 million from his investors and diverted more than \$25 million for his own use. Sentencing is scheduled for October 28, 2010.

### Sentenced:

**Maurice Phillips** was sentenced to four consecutive life terms in prison, on August 11, 2010, for arranging the murder of a federal witness, Chineta Glanville, who was cooperating with authorities in a drug case against Phillips and his organization. Phillips co-defendant, **Sherman Kemp**, was sentenced to 30 years in prison on the single count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine. A third co-defendant, David Garcia, is awaiting sentencing. Phillips asked his cousin, Bryant Phillips, to kill Glanville. In the course of that murder, Bryant Phillips also shot and killed Glanville's godson, Dane King, as he rushed to her aid.

### NEXT ISSUE:

- Axxium mortgage fraud trial update.
- Meet the Secret Service
- Updates on plea and sentencing hearings



**DID YOU KNOW** that you can sign up for email updates from the Department of Justice? Go to [www.justice.gov](http://www.justice.gov) to find out how or to stay connected to DOJ on Facebook and Twitter.

If you believe you may be a victim of a federal crime, the U.S. Attorney's website has more information on whom to call to file a report. Go to [www.justice.gov/usao/pae](http://www.justice.gov/usao/pae) for help.

## VOTING RIGHTS

The November elections are fast approaching. Know your rights! In 2002, the Department of Justice implemented a Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative. The goals of the initiative are to increase the Department's ability to deter voter intimidation, suppression, discrimination, and election fraud and to prosecute these offenses whenever and wherever they occur—to make voting easier and cheating harder. Both goals are equally important. It is imperative that in pursuing voter integrity, ballot access is not in any way diminished or harmed. The Department's long-standing Election Day Program furthers the goals of the Initiative. The Program also is intended to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department where the public can report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on election day. The vote is the cornerstone of American democracy. We all must ensure that those who are entitled to vote, do so, while those who seek to corrupt the process are brought to justice.

In a federal election, allegations of election fraud, intimidation, suppression, and other election abuses, can be reported to the FBI by calling 215-418-4000. Complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination can be made directly to the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington at 1-800-253-3931 or 1-202-307-2767. Where voter intimidation or suppression tactics target voters on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin, please call the Civil Rights Division's Criminal Section at 1-202-514-3204.