



U.S. Department of Justice

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**SEVEN ROCKFORD INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED
ON DRUG CONSPIRACY CHARGES**

ROCKFORD — Six Rockford area men and one Rockford area woman were arrested on Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012, for conspiring to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine.

Nicholas Clark, 31, **Richard Clark**, 39, **Steven Keenan**, 24, **Richard Rill**, 47, **Angelo Turner**, 29, **John Turner**, 31, and **Marquice Fields**, 27, were each charged with conspiring to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine in a criminal complaint filed on Dec. 18, 2012. The charge contained in the criminal complaint stems from an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (“ATF”), Winnebago County Sheriff’s Office, and Rockford Police Department that began in early 2012. All the defendants appeared in court on Dec. 19, 2012, before U.S. Magistrate Judge P. Michael Mahoney.

According to the complaint affidavit, beginning Aug. 24, 2012, and continuing to Dec. 18, 2012, the defendants conspired to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine. The affidavit also requested the issuance of six search warrants for residences tied to members of the conspiracy and to search a safe deposit box held in the name of a charged conspirator.

The complaint affidavit alleged that the conspirators used code words in their conversations in order to disguise references to controlled substances, used pre-paid

telephones and regularly replaced those telephones to avoid interception of their calls, and frequently engaged in counter-surveillance techniques.

The charges were announced by Gary S. Shapiro, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; Thomas R. Trautman, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of FBI; W. Larry Ford, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Field Division of the ATF; Richard Meyers, Winnebago County Sheriff; and Chet Epperson, Chief of the Rockford Police Department.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott R. Paccagnini.

Each defendant faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years in prison and a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison. Each defendant also faces a maximum fine of \$5,000,000. The public is reminded that the complaint contains only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to both an indictment by a grand jury and, if indicted, a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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