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FORMER CHICAGO POLICE OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO ALL COUNTS IN LATIN KINGS INDICTMENT

Hammond, Indiana - United States Attorney David Capp and Assistant Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer of the Justice Department's Criminal Division announced that:

Antonio C. Martinez, Jr., age 40, a former Chicago police officer, pled guilty as charged today to all counts in the recently unsealed Latin Kings indictment. Martinez pled guilty before District Judge Rudy Lozano to two different conspiracies: a conspiracy to commit racketeering activity, and a conspiracy to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine and more than one thousand kilograms of marijuana. In addition, Martinez pled guilty to one robbery count and one count pertaining to using a firearm while committing these federal crimes.

While giving a factual basis for his guilty plea, Martinez admitted in open court that he committed a series of robberies under the guise of conducting legitimate police investigations, while wearing his Chicago Police Department badge and department-issued weapon. These robberies, which all occurred between 2004 and 2006, included:

- The armed burglary and theft of marijuana from a warehouse in the Rockford, Illinois area.
- The armed robbery of a marijuana trafficker during a traffic stop in Chicago, Illinois.
- The armed robbery of a drug trafficker in East Chicago, Indiana.
- The armed robbery of a drug trafficker in the vicinity of South Massasoit Avenue in Chicago, Illinois.
- The armed robbery of a drug trafficker in Chicago, Illinois while the drug trafficker and a leader of the Latin Kings were conducting a narcotics transaction.
- The armed robbery of an individual at her residence in Hammond, Indiana during which two guns that were legally owned by the resident were stolen.
- The armed robbery of the residence of James Walsh, the late leader of the Latin Dragon street gang, in Hammond, Indiana.

Martinez admitted that he did all of these robberies at the direction of the Latin Kings. In addition to these robberies, Martinez admitted in open court that he picked up and delivered packages of cocaine on multiple occasions for two different leaders of the Latin Kings.

Martinez admitted that the RICO conspiracy and the narcotics conspiracy involved more than one hundred and fifty (150) kilograms of cocaine. He also admitted to a number of other sentencing enhancements, such as physically restraining a victim during the course of a robbery, utilizing a bulletproof vest while committing a robbery, and utilizing his position as a Chicago Police officer to facilitate his commission of the robberies.

Martinez also agreed to cooperate fully, truthfully, and candidly with the United States Attorney's office and the federal and local agents. This cooperation includes, but is not limited to, testifying truthfully and completely at any hearings, trials, or other judicial proceedings.

Sentencing is set for 6/14/12 at 1 PM before Judge Lozano.

The investigation of Antonio Martinez was conducted by the Chicago City Public Corruption Task Force, a Chicago Police Department- Internal Affairs and FBI – Chicago, law enforcement initiative. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David J. Nozick, and Joseph A. Cooley, Trial Attorney, United States Department of Justice - Organized Crime and Gang Section.

The investigation of the remaining defendants was conducted by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; the Drug Enforcement Administration; Federal Bureau of Investigation; the U.S. Immigration and Custom Office of Homeland Security Investigations; the National Gang Targeting, Enforcement & Coordination Center; the National Gang Intelligence Center; the Chicago Police Department; the East Chicago Police Department; the Griffith Police Department; the Hammond Police Department; the Highland Police Department; and the Houston Police Department.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.