



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian
Northern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

Albany, New York —United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian, announced the unsealing of 5 indictments returned by a federal grand jury for the Northern District of New York in Albany, New York which, in total, charge twenty-two individuals with various federal drug felonies.

The following thirteen defendants are charged by Indictment 10-CR-327 with the crime of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and cocaine base (crack) from June of 2008 through the present and face maximum penalties including up to life in prison:

Name/Residence

Date of Birth

Rasheed Daniels
Rensselaer, New York

March 13, 1977

Ercel Hartfield
Albany, New York

May 20, 1976

Gary Holmes
Hudson, New York

September 17, 1984

Matthew Bell
Hudson, New York

March 22, 1969

Kevin Ruffin
Catskill, New York

September 29, 1975

Leon Mosley
Hudson, New York

October 10, 1967

Joel Dorval
Hudson, New York

September 26, 1989

Desona Welch Albany, New York	March 31, 1976
William Morrison Hudson, New York	August 27, 1986
William Everetts Chatham, New York	May 21, 1956
Tyrone Hedgepath Hudson, New York	January 13, 1984
Shannon Egan Hudson, New York	May 28, 1980
Kanika Brandow Hudson, New York	November 27, 1983

The following defendant was charged by Indictment 10-CR-328 with two counts of possession with intent to distribute cocaine and faces maximum penalties that include up to thirty years in prison:

<u>Name/Residence</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Martin Devine Greenport, New York	March 21, 1983

The following three defendants are charged by Indictment 10-CR-329 with conspiracy to distribute marijuana during the months of April through June of 2010 and face maximum penalties that include up to five years in prison:

<u>Name/Residence</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Vaughn Keith Latham, New York	August 22, 1974
Jodi Ann Campbell Hudson, New York	May 20, 1981
Brien Justiniano Address Unknown	July 30, 1975

The following two defendants are charged by Indictment 10-CR-330 with conspiracy to distribute heroin and possession with intent to distribute heroin on June 17, 2010 and face maximum penalties that include up to twenty years in prison:

<u>Name/Residence</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Raymond Baker Schenectady, New York	July 18, 1979
Louis Rosa Schenectady, New York	April 25, 1980

The following three defendants are charged by Indictment 10-CR-331 with conspiracy to distribute heroin during the months of April through June of 2010 and face maximum penalties that include up to twenty years in prison:

<u>Name/Residence</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>
Ramone Barnhill Schenectady, New York	September 22, 1979
Floyd Anderson Hudson, New York	June 17, 19730
David Feller Hudson, New York	December 21, 1967

Barnhill also is charged with four counts of possession with intent to distribute heroin.

Each indictment is merely an accusation and each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

All of the above listed defendants, with the exception of Tyrone Hedgepath, Martin Devine, Jodi Ann Campbell, and Brien Justiniano, were arrested this morning and are scheduled for their initial appearance at 1:30 p.m. on June 28, 2010 before United States Magistrate Judge David R. Homer in Albany.

Search warrants executed early this morning by law enforcement agencies throughout the Capital District and prior investigative work resulted in seizures totaling about 1 kilogram of cocaine, 1000 bags of heroin, 250 grams of crack cocaine, 4 pounds of marijuana, 13 firearms (10 handguns and 3 long guns), and more than \$105,000 in U.S. currency.

These charges are the result of a joint Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Capital District Drug Enforcement Task Force and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area group, the United States Marshal, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Probation Department, the New York State Police, the New York State Division of Parole, the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office, the Schenectady Police Department, the Albany Police Department, the Colonie Police Department, the Bethlehem Police Department, the Hudson Police Department, and the Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York.

DEA Special Agent in Charge John P. Gilbride stated, "This operation is a message to drug traffickers that law enforcement is determined to identify, investigate and arrest those who are distributing drugs throughout our communities. DEA and our local and state law enforcement counterparts collaborated in order to put those responsible for polluting our streets with illicit drugs in jail." Special Agent in Charge Gilbride commends the men and women in the Capital District Drug Task Force and the United States Attorney's Office for their diligence in this investigation.

New York State Police Acting Superintendent John P. Melville said, "The considerable efforts and resources the New York State Police and its partner agencies have dedicated to the Drug Enforcement Task Force to stem the tide of drugs and drug related violence in the Capital District were rewarded in today's arrests. The arrests resulting from this year-long investigation will severely

impact the ability of this large scale drug operation to function, and will significantly reduce the drug trade and associated violence in a number of municipalities within the region.”

Columbia County Sheriff David W. Harrison, Jr. said, “This operation is truly the result of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working together to make our neighborhoods safer. The investigation by the Capital District Drug Enforcement Task Force and the United States Attorney’s Office in Albany has revealed organized, upper-level drug traffickers who have been well embedded in our communities. We realize that it is not only the drug addict who is adversely affected by the availability and sales of illegal drugs - it is the murders, robberies, larcenies, burglaries, assaults, and other crimes associated with the drug trade that create a substantial public safety issue.”

Schenectady Public Safety Commissioner Wayne E. Bennett said, “On behalf of the residents of the City of Schenectady, we are extremely appreciative of the hard work and teamwork demonstrated by the DEA, U.S. Attorney’s Office, New York State Police and all our other local, state, and federal law enforcement partners participating in this operation. Effective multi-jurisdictional partnerships such as this are an invaluable tool in combating the criminal and violent illicit drug trade as it extends beyond jurisdictional boundaries.”

Albany Deputy Police Chief Steven Krokoff stated, “Collaborative law enforcement efforts are integral to having an effective policing strategy against drugs and crime. The teamwork of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies is vitally important to the success of operations similar to today’s effort. The citizens of Albany are grateful to the men and woman who were instrumental in this investigation. We hope their efforts significantly impact the drug trade in the region and send a message to anyone involved in criminal activity that it will not be tolerated.”

Chief Ellis C. Richardson of the Hudson Police Department said, “On behalf of the City of

Hudson, I would like to personally thank the U.S. Attorney's Office and all the other law enforcement agencies involved in this investigation. Today signifies the impact law enforcement can have when we work together.”

U.S. Attorney Hartunian praised the outstanding cooperative efforts of the federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies who participated in this investigation. U.S. Attorney Hartunian noted that his Office will continue to work closely with the federal, state, and local authorities to prosecute individuals and organizations which engage in narcotics trafficking and other criminal activity throughout the Northern District of New York.