



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Richard Hartunian  
Northern District of New York

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## **BRICKTOWN GANG MEMBERS CHARGED IN RICO CONSPIRACY**

RICHARD S. HARTUNIAN, United States Attorney, Northern District of New York, announces that an indictment unsealed today in United States District Court charges thirteen (13) defendants with conspiracy to conduct and participate in the affairs of an enterprise, known as the Bricktown Gang, through a pattern of racketeering activity.<sup>1</sup> The Indictment alleges that the gang has operated within the City of Syracuse from at least 2000 through the present. The racketeering activity described in the Indictment includes murder and other shootings, drug trafficking, firearms possession, and robbery. The charged defendants, all of whom are Syracuse residents, are:

**SAQUAN EVANS, a/k/a “Quazy,” “Quan,” “Quaz,”  
“Quanny,” “Masaroti,” and “Moto,” age 21;  
JARRELL WILLIAMS, a/k/a “Rugga,” “Rel,” and “Ruggarel,” age 20;  
DEMETRIUS SULLIVAN, a/k/a “Meechie,” age 23;  
DARNELL WILLIAMS, a/k/a “Styles,” age 25;  
MATTHEW CHEEK, a/k/a “Cheeks,” age 28;  
MIQUAN RUSSO, a/k/a “Shyce,” age 20;  
SHAWNTELL RUSH, a/k/a “Sparks,” and “Tells,” age 27;  
AMADIS HUNTER, a/k/a “Baldy,” age 23;  
ERNEST HESTER, a/k/a “EB,” age 21;  
JAYCEE FLOYD, a/k/a “Mojo” and “Mojesus,” age 22;  
JEROME CLARKE, a/k/a “Loonz,” age 24;  
ANTHONY BRASWELL, a/k/a “Pooper,” age 19; and  
MIGUEL RUSSO, a/k/a “G-Money,” “Gell,” and “Funny,” age 22.**

Law enforcement authorities arrested six of the defendants at various locations in and around Syracuse early this morning. Seven defendants were previously incarcerated. All 13 defendants are scheduled to appear before a United States Magistrate Judge at 4:00 p.m. today for their initial appearances in federal court.

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<sup>1</sup> The charges are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Searches were conducted by authorities at ten locations in the City of Syracuse this morning. The evidence seized included two handguns, approximately \$4,000 in U.S. currency, a small quantity of crack cocaine, and substantial quantities of photographs and drawings indicative of gang affiliation.

The Indictment further alleges that members of the Bricktown Gang: (1) maintain a specific geographic territory within the City of Syracuse in which only gang members can sell crack cocaine, cocaine, and marijuana; (2) protect that exclusive crack distribution territory with violence; (3) obtain drugs from suppliers in New York City and elsewhere; (4) project a very violent attitude and respond to violence with violence in order to preserve their stature in the gang community; (5) use graffiti, hand signs, and royal blue bandanas to signify their gang membership; (6) use criteria such as willingness to use violence, ability to sell drugs, and familial connections to determine membership; and (7) routinely carry and use firearms in connection with their gang activity.

There are multiple acts of violence and drug distribution set forth in the Indictment, including 2 instances of knife violence, 2 murders, 8 other shootings, 7 other acts of gun possession, and 12 acts of crack distribution and/or possession with intent to distribute crack. With respect to the murders, the Indictment includes allegations that gang members killed innocent victims on two separate occasions as gang members sought retaliation against rival gang members. Once such allegation involves the November 2010 murder by gang member SAQUAN EVANS of 20 month old infant Rashad Walker, Jr., as he sat in a car seat with his mother by his side in the 300 block of Coolidge Avenue. The Indictment also alleges that gang members JARRELL WILLIAMS and ERNEST HESTER murdered Anthony Ford and shot a female who was with him in the head in September of 2007 in the 1600 block of East Fayette Street.

If convicted, each defendant faces up to life imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and three years of supervised release following any period of incarceration.

This prosecution resulted from a long-term investigation conducted by the Syracuse Gang Violence Task Force, which is comprised of agents and detectives from the following agencies: United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (Syracuse Office), the Syracuse Police Department, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, the New York State Police, and the United States Marshals Service. The Onondaga County District Attorney's Office also assisted in the investigation.

United States Attorney Hartunian said, "Gangs such as the Bricktown Gang poison our streets with drugs, violence, and all manner of crime, victimizing children and other innocent people. Here in Syracuse, we in law enforcement have a strong tradition of working together to address violent gang activity, as our prior successful cases against the Boot Camp, Elk Block, Brighton Brigade, Eastside, and 110 gangs demonstrate. Our federal, state, and local partnership is stronger than ever, and our commitment to stamping out gang violence is unwavering, unrelenting, and will continue until gangs no longer terrorize our city. Gang members and people considering gang affiliation can choose to become peaceful and productive members of our society, or face the consequences of our combined response and the most serious penalties that state and federal law will allow. Thank you to all of the agencies and agents who made this investigation a success and to Mayor Miner for her continuing efforts to support our work and encourage the community to make Syracuse a safer city."

Syracuse Police Chief Frank Fowler said, "We value our relationship with our federal partners. A RICO investigation like this will go a long way to keep our city safe through the upcoming summer months and beyond."

Onondaga County District Attorney William Fitzpatrick said, "This is yet another example of successful collaboration with our federal partners. Strong federal statutes like RICO are extremely helpful when New York State continues to weaken its own laws against drug dealers. Gangs and gun violence are inextricably interwoven with the drug trade. Today's indictment advances our effort to make our city and our streets safer."

Further questions or inquiries may be directed to Assistant U.S. Attorney John M. Katko, who is prosecuting the case, or Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney John G. Duncan, both at (315) 448-0672.

\*\*\*\*\* **END OF NEWS RELEASE** \*\*\*\*\*