



# Department of Justice

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

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CONTACT: AUSA John M. Katko  
(315) 448-0672

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyn>

## **BRICKTOWN GANG RICO DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO 97 MONTHS IN PRISON**

RICHARD S. HARTUNIAN, United States Attorney, Northern District of New York, announces that **JEROME CLARKE, age 25**, of Syracuse, was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Syracuse to 97 months imprisonment, followed by four years of supervised release. He previously pled guilty to an indictment which charged him and 13 others with conspiring to exploit their membership in the Bricktown Gang by engaging in a pattern of racketeering activity which included multiple acts of murder, drug trafficking, and robbery.

As part of his plea, **CLARKE** admitted that the Bricktown Gang has operated within the City of Syracuse from at least 2000 through the present and 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 if necessary; (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) on occasion use hand signs, wear blue colored bandanas and have tattoos, all of which are intended 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.

**CLARKE** is the fourth Bricktown Gang RICO defendant to be sentenced. Four other co-defendants are awaiting sentencing. The case against six other defendants remains pending.<sup>1</sup>

There are multiple acts of violence and drug distribution alleged in the RICO Indictment, including 2 instances of knife violence, 2 murders, 8 other shootings, 7 other acts of gun possession, 12 acts of crack distribution and/or possession with intent to distribute crack, and a major gang assault that occurred within a Denny's restaurant on Erie Boulevard in Dewitt, New York.

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<sup>1</sup> The allegations contained in the Indictment are mere accusations; and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

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. One such allegation involves the November, 2010 murder by gang member SAQUAN EVANS of a 20 month old child named Rashad Walker, Jr., as he sat in a car seat with his mother by his side in the 300 block of Coolidge Avenue. The other alleged murder involves the September 2007 shooting and killing by gang members JARRELL WILLIAMS and ERNEST HESTER of Anthony Ford in the 1600 block of East Fayette Street. A female who was with him was shot in the head but survived. EVANS, WILLIAMS and HESTER are among the six defendants whose cases remain pending.

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 Troopers, and the United States Marshals Service. The Onondaga County District Attorney's Office also assisted in the investigation.

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

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**END OF NEWS RELEASE**

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