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**BRONX BLOODS INDICTED ON MURDER,
FEDERAL RACKETEERING AND NARCOTICS CONSPIRACY CHARGES**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, WILLIAM G. MCMAHON, Special Agent in Charge for the New York Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and RAYMOND W. KELLY, the Police Commissioner of the City of New York announced today the unsealing of an Indictment charging 12 individuals as members and associates of a racketeering enterprise known as the Clay Avenue Bloods. From 1998 to 2005, the Indictment alleges, the Clay Avenue Bloods engaged in numerous criminal acts including murder, narcotics trafficking, robbery and firearms violations, throughout the Bronx, New York.

The takedown announced today is a part of an 18-month law enforcement operation led by the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF").

The twenty-six count Indictment charges defendants DARIUS BYRD, a/k/a "Tooch," EDWIN KLINE, a/k/a "Fucker," DANIEL HESTER, a/k/a "Boone," CHAZ GLYNN, a/k/a "Chaddio," ANTHONY VALENTINE, JERMAIL MANUEL, a/k/a "Melle," DASHEEM SIMMONS, a/k/a "DA," JOHN SCOTT, a/k/a "Q," EPHRAIM MONROE, a/k/a "E," JOSE PEREZ, a/k/a "Butter," DESURAY COLE, a/k/a "D," and SHERRY FAULK, a/k/a "Berry," with offenses that include racketeering, murder, robbery, narcotics and firearms violations. According to the Indictment, these individuals were members and associates of the Bloods, a violent street and prison gang that operates in the New York Metropolitan area and in various New York state and city

correctional facilities. The Clay Avenue Bloods, according to the Indictment, operated principally in the vicinity of 167th Street and Clay Avenue in the Bronx. The Clay Avenue Bloods allegedly engaged in regular narcotics trafficking in the vicinity of 1140 Clay Avenue, selling 50 grams and more of "crack,". The Clay Avenue Bloods also allegedly engaged in multiple armed robberies and other acts of violence, including murder, as described below.

Certain members of the Clay Avenue Bloods are charged with participating in the murder of Frederick Fowler and the attempted murder of Charles Myers on May 22, 2000. Specifically, KLINE, GLYNN and VALENTINE are charged with luring Fowler and Myers to the vicinity of 169th Street and Teller Avenue in the Bronx, in order to rob Fowler and Myers of narcotics proceeds and to murder the two men. Fowler was shot and killed at that location. KLINE and HESTER are also charged with the murder of Edward Flowers, who was shot and killed during the robbery of an unlicensed gambling hall at 1291 Clay Avenue, Bronx, New York, on July 11, 2000.

If convicted, KLINE, HESTER, GLYNN, VALENTINE, and FAULK are all eligible for the death penalty. The remaining defendants each face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

DARIUS BYRD, age 32, resides in the Bronx, New York and faces a mandatory minimum of seventeen years in custody.

EDWIN KLINE, age 24, resides in the Bronx, New York and faces a mandatory minimum of thirty-seven years in custody.

DANIEL HESTER, age 24, resides in the Bronx, New York and faces a mandatory minimum of seventeen years in custody.

CHAZ GLYNN, age 28, is already serving time in federal custody and faces a mandatory minimum of thirty years in custody.

ANTHONY VALENTINE, age 34, resides in the Bronx, New York and faces a mandatory minimum of thirty years in custody.

JERMAIL MANUEL, age 23, resides in the Bronx, New York and faces a mandatory minimum of seventeen years in custody.

DASHEEM SIMMONS, age 32, is already serving time in state custody and faces a mandatory minimum of seventeen years in custody.

JOHN SCOTT, age 24, is already serving time in federal custody and faces a mandatory minimum of ten years in custody.

EPHRAIM MONROE, age 23, resides in the Bronx, New York, and faces a mandatory minimum of ten years in custody.

JOSE PEREZ, age 22, resides in the Bronx, New York, and faces a mandatory minimum of ten years in custody.

DESURAY COLE, age 22, resides in the Bronx, New York and faces a mandatory minimum of seven years in custody.

SHERRY FAULK, age 21, resides in the Bronx, New York and faces a mandatory minimum of twenty years in custody.

The case has been assigned to the Honorable Jed S. Rakoff.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the ATF and NYPD for their investigation in this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys Samidh Guha, David S. Leibowitz and Elizabeth F. Maringer are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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