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U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF OPERATION KISSIMMEE CRACKDOWN

Orlando, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces the results of Operation Kissimmee Crackdown, an Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force ("OCDETF") operation that spanned nine months in Kissimmee, Florida in 2008.

According to evidence and testimony presented through a series of hearings over several years of court cases, crack cocaine trafficking and its associated violent crime has ravaged the McLaren Circle area of Kissimmee, Florida. Until this coordinated effort among law enforcement and other service providers, little impact was made in addressing this problem. During 2008, federal and local agents teamed up to perform high risk undercover purchases of crack cocaine and firearms, execute search warrants, and conduct surveillance on the area. The enforcement stage of the investigation culminated on December 11, 2008, with a round-up that netted 18 federal and 48 state arrests. A number of other defendants were arrested before and after the round-up. The December 2008 effort utilized approximately 300 officers to conduct the arrests and execute thirteen search warrants, which were executed simultaneously in the early morning hours. In total, the authorities seized several kilograms of cocaine and crack cocaine, marijuana, body armor suits, thousands of dollars in U.S. currency, eighteen firearms and three vehicles.

The following defendants have been sentenced in federal court in Orlando as a result of this operation:

Defendant:	Chareges:	Federal Prison Term:
Nathaniel Barnett, Jr.	Crack Cocaine Distribution	145 months
Nathaniel Green	Firearms Possession Crack Cocaine Distribution	152 months
Lenard Kilpatrick	Crack Cocaine Distribution	168 months
Cleotha Johnson, Jr.	Crack Cocaine Distribution	120 months
Jarmar Francis	Firearms Possession Crack Cocaine Distribution	100 months
Lorenzo Washington	Crack Cocaine Distribution	120 months
Latavious Hazley	Crack Cocaine Distribution	120 months
Charles Scott	Crack Cocaine Distribution	222 months
Nathaniah Fredericks	Crack Cocaine Distribution	188 months
Michael Jerome McMillon	Crack Cocaine Distribution	72 months
Bobby McGee	Firearms Possession	180 months
David Holliman	Firearms Possession Crack Cocaine Distribution	120 months
Courtney Reed	Firearms Possession	37 months
Mario Small	Firearms Possession	60 months
Calvin Edwards	Crack Cocaine Distribution	192 months
Davion Smiley	Crack Cocaine Distribution Firearms Possession	120 months
Alvin Hazley	Crack Cocaine Distribution	96 months
Mary Kinloch	Crack Cocaine Distribution Firearms Possession	93 months
Adrian Lamar Williams	Crack Cocaine Distribution Firearms Possession	180 months

During a series of hearings, witnesses painted a picture of the McLaren Circle area as one decimated by drug dealing, violence and other societal ills for decades. The area was plagued with robberies, carjackings, shootings, violent crimes against police officers, riots, home invasions, and murders while residents were shut up inside their homes fearful of becoming victims. Witnesses did not come forward and cooperate for fear of retaliation from the area crack dealers. Commercial vendors such as FedEx, UPS, pizza and taxi companies refused to enter the area to provide services to residents. For a time period, the United States Postal Service halted its route into the area.

According to witness testimony, since the December 2008 crackdown, the violent crime rates have experienced significant drops. Community cooperation has risen and people are now investing in the neighborhood. Witnesses are coming forward to report crimes and have banded together to support law enforcement and identify criminals.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; the United States Marshals Service; the Kissimmee Police Department; the Osceola County Sheriff's Office; the Osceola County Investigative Bureau; and Florida Department of Law Enforcement. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Robert E. Bodnar, Jr. and J. Bishop Ravenel.