
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : **CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**
 :
 v. : The Honorable Steven C. Mannion
 :
 HAKIM THOMAS, :
 a/k/a "Dollar" : Mag. No. 15-6098
 :
 : **FILED UNDER SEAL**

I, the undersigned complainant, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SEE ATTACHMENT A

I further state that I am a Task Force Officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration and that this criminal complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT B

continued on the attached page and made a part hereof.



Ramon Candelaria
Task Force Officer
Drug Enforcement Administration

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,
May 18, 2015 at Newark, New Jersey

THE HONORABLE STEVEN C. MANNION
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE



Signature of Judicial Officer

ATTACHMENT A

Count One

(Distribution, and Possession with Intent to Distribute, Heroin)

On or about November 21, 2013, in Essex County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, defendant

HAKIM THOMAS,
a/k/a "Dollar,"

did knowingly and intentionally distribute, and possess with intent to distribute, a quantity of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of heroin, a Schedule I controlled substance.

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(C).

ATTACHMENT B

I, Ramon Candelaria, have been a Task Force Officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”) since 2013 and a detective with the Newark Police Department since 2008. I have been personally involved in the investigation of this matter. The information contained in this Criminal Complaint is based on my personal knowledge and on information obtained from other sources, including: (a) statements made or reported by various witnesses with knowledge of relevant facts; (b) my review of publicly-available information relating to the defendants; (c) my review of business records, other documents, and evidence obtained through court orders, subpoenas, and other sources; and (d) my review of audio and video recordings, photographs, and court-authorized wiretaps. Because this Criminal Complaint is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, it does not include every fact that I have learned during the course of the investigation. Where the content of documents and the actions, statements, and conversations of individuals are recounted herein, they are recounted in substance and in part, and the content of statements and meetings are based on partial, non-verbatim summaries of the conversations based on descriptions of the conversations prepared by monitors. All dates and times are approximate.

THE NEW JERSEY GRAPE STREET CRIPS

1. The Grape Street Crips are a nationwide street gang, founded in Los Angeles, California, and operating throughout the United States, including in the District of New Jersey (hereinafter, the “NJ Grape Street Crips” or the “Enterprise”).
2. Members and associates of the NJ Grape Street Crips are united in their common goals of preserving, protecting, promoting, and expanding the power and authority of the NJ Grape Street Crips, and of increasing respect for, and enriching, members and associates of the Enterprise.

MANNER & MEANS OF THE ENTERPRISE

3. The NJ Grape Street Crips routinely engage in acts of intimidation and violence—including murder, assault, and witness intimidation—to avenge attacks or perceived slights against other members of the Enterprise; to punish members who have been disloyal; to retaliate against rivals; to silence individuals who are perceived to be cooperating with law enforcement against the NJ Grape Street Crips; and to maintain and enhance the reputation of the NJ Grape Street Crips for the purpose of protecting and otherwise assisting their drug-trafficking business.

4. During the course of this investigation, Kwasi Mack, a/k/a “Welchs,” who is second-in-command of the NJ Grape Street Crips, and Corey Batts, a/k/a “C-Murder,” a/k/a “Cee,” another high-ranking member of the Enterprise, have been charged by a federal grand jury with conspiracy to commit murder, attempted murder, aggravated assault with a dangerous weapon, conspiracy to commit aggravated assault with a dangerous weapon, all in aid of racketeering, heroin distribution, conspiracy to distribute heroin, and using firearms in furtherance of crimes of violence and drug trafficking crimes. *See, e.g., United States v. Kwasi Mack & Corey Batts*, Second Superseding Indictment, Crim. No. 14-220 (SRC).

5. The rules governing the NJ Grape Street Crips provide that members of the Enterprise must retaliate against individuals who cooperate with law enforcement against the NJ Grape Street Crips. As a result of these rules, members of the NJ Grape Street Crips routinely engage in acts of intimidation and violence against witnesses, individuals who are believed to be cooperating with law enforcement, and law enforcement officers themselves.

6. Following the federal grand jury indictment referenced in paragraph 4, *supra*, Corey Batts, a/k/a “C-Murder,” a/k/a “Cee,” was charged by federal criminal complaint with attempting to murder a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) and soliciting the commission of a crime of violence against the Special Agent. *See, e.g., United States v. Corey Batts*, Criminal Complaint, Mag. No. 14-7239 (CLW).

7. As described in detail below, members of the NJ Grape Street Crips routinely use social media, cellular telephones, and other means: (i) to identify publicly individuals who are cooperating, or who previously have cooperated, with law enforcement; (ii) to issue threats against individuals who are cooperating with law enforcement; and (iii) to disseminate messages intended to dissuade individuals and witnesses from cooperating with law enforcement. For example:

a. In March 2015, law enforcement officers lawfully intercepted wire communications of coconspirator Ahmed Singleton, a/k/a “Gangsta-Mu,” a/k/a “Mooshie” (hereinafter, “Singleton”)—a member of the NJ Grape Street Crips charged in a separate federal criminal complaint¹—who had been charged by the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office with, among other charges, aggravated assault with a weapon in connection with a shooting. Immediately after the dismissal of those charges by the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office, Singleton bragged to coconspirator Louis Coston, a/k/a “Real Rell,” that he had “beat trial.” Singleton explained: “You know, *I had the goons in the back seat so, so he [the victim-witness] recognized all the goons all the goons lined up in the back*, like, ‘Oh he got them goons in here, like,’ word up, that ni**a was fifty though son, that ni**a ain’t wanna look at nobody eyes, you heard son?” Singleton also said that the attorney for the victim-witness told Singleton and Singleton’s attorney that the victim-witness would “do the right thing” (meaning refuse to testify against Singleton) so that Singleton would not “take that ni**a shit off when he come home for telling.” Singleton explained that, when the victim-witness took the witness stand, “he was like, ‘Yo, I don’t got nothing to say.’” Singleton went on: “I walked out of court free, ni**a, who you know do that *who you know cause ruckus on these motherfuckin streets, come home, do whatever the fuck they want, and still be out here son?*” As a result of these efforts by Singleton and other members and associates of the NJ Grape Street Crips to intimidate the victim/witness, all charges against Singleton in connection with the shooting had to be dismissed.

¹ Singleton and Louis Coston, a/k/a “Real Rell,” are charged by federal criminal complaint, filed on or about May 4, 2015, under Magistrate Number 15-6593, with conspiracy to distribute, and possess with intent to distribute, one kilogram or more of heroin, contrary to Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a) and (b)(1)(A), in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

b. On or about August 28, 2014—*after* the shooting for which Singleton was charged by the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office, but before the charges were dismissed—a video posted on YouTube shows Singleton stating, “No rats though, no rats, we don’t do rats, we don’t eat cheese. Keep that shit over there, we don’t tolerate that shit.” At that point, defendant Justin Carnegie, a/k/a “Dew Hi,” a/k/a “Dew,” a/k/a “D” (hereinafter, “Carnegie”),² also a member of the NJ Grape Street Crips, states, “187 on all rats. . . . If ya’ll don’t hear anything else, ya’ll gonna hear about how we be straight rat killin on that shit. It ain’t no love over here. If a ni**a associating with them, they could die too.” Based on my knowledge and experience, the term “187” is a gang reference to the California Penal Code Section 187, which defines the crime of murder. Thus, the phrase “187 on all rats” means that individuals who cooperate with law enforcement should be murdered.

c. In late 2013, a senior member of the NJ Grape Street Crips used a social media account to identify an individual as having previously cooperated with a murder investigation conducted by the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office. Several days after that social media post, several members of the NJ Grape Street Crips repeatedly shot and nearly killed two people, one of whom was the individual who had been identified as having cooperated.

d. In late 2013, following the arrest of numerous gang members, law enforcement officials learned that members of the NJ Grape Street Crips on the street had directed those members of the Enterprise who were incarcerated at a county correctional facility to physically assault an individual who was believed to have cooperated with the law enforcement investigation.

e. A post on a social media account used by defendant Carnegie shows an extremely graphic photograph of a bloody individual with his jaw and neck blown away from his face. The caption to the post states: “@AllSnitches I bet ur ass won’t talk again #187AllRats.”

f. A video posted on a social media account shows a member of the Grape Street Crips, while holding a stack of papers in his hand, stating: “I’ve seen a lot of ni**as paperwork man . . . shit thicka then a book, I ain’t never seen nobody’s motherfuckin paperwork this motherfuckin thick. Ni**a told on everybody man you fuckin rat.” Based on my knowledge and experience, the word “paperwork” in this context refers to the pretrial discovery received by criminal defendants. Members of the NJ Grape Street Crips frequently obtain and circulate to other gang members any discovery documents suggesting that an individual or fellow gang member is cooperating with law enforcement or has provided law enforcement with information about other gang members or the Enterprise generally.

g. A social media account used by a senior member of the NJ Grape Street Crips who is facing a federal indictment in this District shows a post stating: “ME AND MY NI**AZ

² Carnegie was charged by federal criminal complaint, filed on or about May 4, 2015, under Magistrate Number 15-6593, with conspiracy to distribute, and possess with intent to distribute, one kilogram or more of heroin, contrary to Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a) and (b)(1)(A), in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

WILL BURN OUR TONGUE B4 WE RAT #TEAMKAR.” Based on my knowledge and experience, the phrase “TEAMKAR” means “Team Kill All Rats.”

h. Finally, as described in paragraph 48 through 50 of the federal criminal complaint filed in *United States v. Vanderhall et al.*, Mag. No. 15-6592, members and leaders of the NJ Grape Street Crips also physically assault members of the Enterprise who violate the Enterprise’s rules or protocols.

8. Members of the Enterprise, including the defendants charged herein, utilized their affiliation with the NJ Grape Street Crips to protect and otherwise assist their drug-trafficking business. Further, members of the Enterprise, including the defendants charged herein, engaged in violent acts to maintain and enhance the reputation of NJ Grape Street Crips for the purpose of protecting and otherwise assisting their drug trafficking business. As described in paragraph 50 of the federal criminal complaint filed in *United States v. Vanderhall et al.*, Mag. No. 15-6592, members of the NJ Grape Street Crips also resort to violence when their drug profits are threatened.

9. Members and associates of the NJ Grape Street Crips engaged in, and/or controlled, drug trafficking and other criminal activities in various public-housing complexes and neighborhoods in Newark, New Jersey, including (i) the area of 6th Avenue and North 5th Street (hereinafter, the “6th Avenue Location”); (ii) the Pennington Court public-housing complex located on Pennington Street (hereinafter, the “Pennington Court Location”); (iii) the Millard Terrell Homes public-housing complex located on Riverview Terrace (hereinafter, the “Riverview Court Location”); (iv) the Oscar Miles public-housing complex located on Court Street (hereinafter, the “Oscar Miles Location”); (v) the New Hope Village housing complex located on Norfolk Street (hereinafter, the “New Hope Village Location”); (vi) the Wynona Lipman Gardens and Kemsco public-housing complexes located near 7th Avenue (hereinafter, the “7th Avenue Locations”); and the John W. Hyatt public-housing complex located on Hawkins Street (hereinafter, the “Hyatt Court Location”).

THE INVESTIGATION

10. Defendant Hakim Thomas, a/k/a “Dollar” (hereinafter, “Thomas”) is a member of the NJ Grape Street Crips who was engaged in the distribution of cocaine and crack-cocaine at the 6th Avenue Location.

11. On or about November 21, 2013, an undercover law enforcement officer (hereinafter, the “UC”) approached a group of individuals, including Thomas, standing in the area of North 5th Street in Newark, New Jersey. After the UC told the group of individuals that the UC needed “eight,” referring to eight bags of cocaine, Thomas and two other individuals rushed over to the UC. Thomas then ordered everyone to back off and told the UC to follow him (Thomas). After walking to the porch of a nearby residence, Thomas retrieved six bags of a substance that subsequently field-tested positive for the presence of cocaine. Thomas provided the six bags to the UC in exchange for a sum of United States currency, and then he told the UC that if the UC needed anything else the UC should return to see Thomas. Thomas then provided the UC with his telephone number.

12. On or about November 12, 2013, Thomas was convicted of distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5, and on or about September 19, 2000, Thomas was convicted in the Essex County Superior Court of second-degree robbery, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:15-1. As a result of these prior convictions, Thomas is a career offender under the United States Sentencing Guidelines.