

NEWS RELEASE

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COMBINED ENFORCEMENT EFFORT NETS 51 ARRESTS IN STOCKTON, CALIF.

Crack, Heroin, Methamphetamine, PCP, Marijuana, Cash and Firearms Seized

(STOCKTON, CA) – Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Javier F. Peña, Stockton Police Chief Wayne Hose, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Assistant Special Agent in Charge Michael P. Gleysteen, United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, and San Joaquin County District Attorney James P. Willett announce the culmination of a 6 month long investigation targeting drug traffickers and suspected gang members in Stockton. As a result of the investigation law enforcement arrested 51 individuals, some of whom are believed to be members of the “Norteños” and “South Side Stockton” street gangs.

At the request of Stockton Police Chief Wayne Hose, a team of special agents from the DEA known as the Mobile Enforcement Team (MET) – were deployed in January 2007 to target drug traffickers and gangs operating in Stockton.

Throughout the course of this investigation a total of 13 state and federal search warrants were served in this combined enforcement effort. Of the 51 individuals arrested and/or indicted in this investigation, 31 were the result of state prosecution, while 20 have been the result of federal prosecution. These individuals were arrested on various state and federal drug charges which include distribution of controlled substances, possession with intent to distribute controlled substances and conspiracy to distribute controlled substances. Other charges include firearms violations, parole and probation violations. An outstanding state arrest warrant remains for Louis Cornell HOLIDAY, 30, of Stockton.

In addition to the arrests, agents seized approximately 7.7 pounds crystal methamphetamine, 2.3 lbs crack cocaine, 1 lb marijuana, ¾ lb tar heroin, 3.4 grams PCP, \$32,901 US Currency, and 19 firearms to include handguns, shotguns, and assault rifles. The street value of all the drugs combined is approximately \$400,000.

“Close coordination between law enforcement, and the ability to stop these criminals before they commit more crimes is essential if we are going to end the nightmare of drugs on our streets-It was an honor for the San Francisco Mobile Enforcement Team to assist the Stockton Police Department in their efforts to end these despicable criminal careers,” stated DEA Special Agent in Charge Javier F. Peña.

“The Stockton Police Department extends to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office and the United States Attorney's Office our great appreciation for the success of the recent investigation targeting drug trafficking in the Stockton area. Illegal drug trafficking and use is the root cause of a vast majority of violent and property crimes in our county. These enforcement operations are critical to impacting illegal drug use to reduce crime and deter others from these illegal activities,” stated Stockton Police Chief Wayne Hose. “As a local agency, we would not have been able to take on an investigation of this magnitude without the assistance of these federal agencies as well as the local D.A.'s Office and surrounding agencies such as the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office and the Tracy Police Department. We look forward to a continuing close working relationship with DEA and ATF to combat crime in our communities.”

“Guns and drugs can be a deadly combination. The illegal use of guns while trafficking narcotics must be stopped. ATF and our partners will continue to disrupt armed traffickers in an effort to reduce violent crime in the Stockton area,” said Michael P. Gleysteen, Assistant Special Agent In Charge of ATF's San Francisco Field Division.

“The results of this targeted effort, with 51 drug and gang offenders taken off the streets of Stockton, reflects what can be achieved when local, state and federal agencies partner together to protect our communities,” said McGregor W. Scott, United States Attorney.

This investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration San Francisco Field Division MET, Stockton Police Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Stockton Field Office, with assistance from the San Joaquin Metro Task Force, the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office and the Tracy Police Department.

This case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of California and the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office. The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.