

U.S. Department of Justice

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Feb 24, 2009

Event: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Deondre M. Mullen et al

FIVE JACKSON GANG DEFENDANTS PLEAD GUILTY TO CRACK CONSPIRACY

Each Faces A Mandatory Sentence Between 10 Years And Life Imprisonment

Five members of the "Evonnie Boyz & Gyrlz," an armed street gang from Jackson, Michigan, pled guilty today to conspiring to distribute crack cocaine, Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced. The pleas were entered before U.S. District Judge Gerald E. Rosen. Berg was joined in the announcement by Thomas E. Brandon, Special-Agent-In-Charge of the Detroit office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Jackson City Police Chief Matthew Heyns, and Jackson County Prosecutor Henry C. Zavislak.

DEONDRE MEQUALE MULLEN, a/k/a Dre, 33, the gang's leader, admitted to making controlled deliveries of crack cocaine to undercover law enforcement agents on February 28, March 13, and March 25, 2008. He is a "career offender" for purposes of federal sentencing guidelines and faces an advisory guideline range of 22 - 27 years imprisonment at sentencing.

DWIGHT EVERETTE FULLILOVE, a/k/a Whitehead, 22, made a controlled delivery of crack cocaine to undercover law enforcement agents on June 13, 2008. A subsequent search

of his residence resulting in the discovery of 52 "rocks" of crack cocaine, along with three small bags of heroin. He is also a "career offender" for purposes of federal sentencing guidelines and faces an advisory guideline range of 22 - 27 years imprisonment at sentencing.

JARRELL LAFEYETTE FULLILOVE, a/k/a Chi Town, 24, admitted to selling between one and three ounces of crack cocaine per week from residences on Chapin Street, Irvin Street, Michigan Ave., and Homewild Ave. in Jackson. He also admitted to selling controlled substances while armed with a firearm. He faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment at sentencing.

DIONTE CORTEZ REED, a/k/a Mike Jones, 20, admitted to making controlled deliveries of crack cocaine to undercover law enforcement agents on February 14, February 28, and March 13, 2008. He faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment at sentencing.

DESHAWN SWEET, 21, admitted to delivering approximately 1/4 kilogram of crack cocaine per week to Evonnie gang members and others beginning in the summer of 2007. He faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment at sentencing.

With these pleas, all eight defendants indicted by the government in the case on August 26, 2008 have pled guilty. The other defendants that previously entered pleas include:

SHARONDA LATRICE BAILEY, a/k/a Shorty, 23, pled guilty on December 8, 2008. She admitted to making controlled deliveries of crack cocaine on October 30 and November 5, 2007, and January 17, January 24, February 5, February 14, February 28, and March 13, 2008. She faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment at sentencing.

JAMIE LEE WAGNER, 20, pleaded guilty on December 19, 2008. She admitted to distributing a "ball" (1/8 ounce) of crack cocaine three or four times per week, for which she collected \$200 per "ball." She faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment at sentencing.

DELANO D'MITERI TARPLEY, a/k/a Lano, a/k/a Bird, 19, pleaded guilty on January 5, 2009. He admitted to selling approximately 4.5 ounces of crack cocaine per week. He also admitted to carrying a .22 caliber handgun during the drug sales. He faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years imprisonment at sentencing.

Acting U.S. Attorney Terrence Berg said, "Gangs can be beaten when federal, state, and local law enforcement team up with community groups to fight organized drug trafficking and the dangers it brings to our neighborhoods,"

"ATF remains committed to working with our law enforcement partners and prosecutors to aggressively investigate armed violent gangs," SAC Brandon said.

Last week, on February 19, 2009, three additional defendants were charged by criminal complaint with distributing crack cocaine to the Evonnie gang and others. These include Darnell Markise Boyd, a/k/a "Doc," 38, Henry James Woodbury, a/k/a "Hindu," 29, and Carlos Reginald McCullough, a/k/a "Los," 30. If convicted, Woodbury faces mandatory life imprisonment, Boyd faces a mandatory 20 years imprisonment, and McCullough faces a mandatory 10 years imprisonment. A criminal complaint is a charging document and not evidence of guilt. Each and every defendant is presumed to be innocent.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Operation TIDE is the unprecedented, long-term law enforcement and community collaboration where federal, state, county and local law enforcement officials meet regularly and work in cooperation to reduce violent crimes and prevent recidivism by focusing on the "worst of the worst."

Other PSN Operation TIDE Task Force partners include the U.S. Marshals Service, the FBI, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, and the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Citizens with information concerning illegal guns, gangs with guns, armed drug trafficking or the trafficking of illegal guns are encouraged to call 800-ATF-GUNS. Callers can

remain anonymous. This number is managed and answered by law enforcement, ATF agents who work directly with local police departments. For information about Project Safe Neighborhoods call 1-800-891-8881 or visit <u>www.psnworks.org</u>.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Leonid Feller.