



U.S. Department of Justice

**Terrence Berg
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

***Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277***

For Immediate Release:

**Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758
Vera Fedorak - ATF (313) 202-3400**

April 17, 2009

Event: Sentenced

Defendant: Stanley Thomas Brazil, Jr.

**LEADER OF SUNNYSIDE GANG SENTENCED
TO MORE THAN 30 YEARS IN PRISON**

Stanley Thomas Brazil, Jr. was sentenced today to a term of 380 months in federal prison after being convicted of two counts of distribution of 50 grams or more of crack cocaine in September 2008, announced Terrence Berg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. Mr. Berg was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Thomas E. Brandon, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Brazil, 33, of Saginaw, was the reputed head of the Sunnyside Gang, a major drug organization operating on the south side of Saginaw, Michigan.

Evidence produced during his 2008 trial and at the sentencing hearing today revealed that Brazil had been selling cocaine since the late 1990s and was responsible for the distribution of up to 10 kilograms of crack cocaine per month in the Saginaw area.

In announcing the sentence, United States District Judge Thomas L. Ludington noted that Brazil was the source of the drugs distributed by Sunnyside, had recruited a number of individuals who have since been convicted for their involvement in drug activity, and exercised control over the organization to the extent that Brazil would have to approve a potential customer before others could sell to the person.

The trial was the culmination of a 3 year investigation of the Sunnyside Gang by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Michigan State Police and the Saginaw Police Department. The investigation, conducted in two phases, resulted in the conviction of 29 individuals in federal court, 10 individuals in state court, and the removal of approximately 1.5 kilograms of cocaine off the streets of Saginaw.

U.S. Attorney Berg stated, "Today's sentence shows the consequences of running a drug trafficking gang: 30 years in prison. This case is a tremendous example of the results that can be attained through inter-agency cooperation and dogged determination."

Special Agent in Charge Brandon said, "Organized drug gangs jeopardize the safety of many in the Saginaw community. Targeting armed and violent drug and gang offenders remains a high priority for ATF and the Justice Department. I commend the outstanding collaboration of the local, state and federal law enforcement in undertaking this sweeping investigation."

Mr. Berg commended the work of the agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the FBI, the Michigan State Police and the Saginaw Police Department.