

United States Department of Justice United States Attorney's Office District of Minnesota

Rachel K. Paulose, United States Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, June 8, 2007

FOURTEEN ARRESTED ON FIREARMS AND NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS

Minneapolis, MN – Rachel Paulose, U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota and Bernard J. Zapor, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), announce the arrests of fourteen individuals. The arrests, part of an ongoing eight month investigation, were conducted pursuant to federal arrest warrants alleging violations of federal firearms and drug laws.

The following individuals were arrested in Faribault, MN on June 7:

Tylan BLAND, 19, Faribault – Conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base, conspiring to possess firearms during and in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense, and possessing and discharging a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense.

Edward LEE, 18, Faribault - Conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base, conspiring to possess firearms during and in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense, and possessing and discharging a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense.

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Marchello JEFFERSON, 26, Faribault - Conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base, conspiring to possess firearms during and in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense, and possessing and discharging a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense.

Chaka BILLS, 30, Minneapolis – Conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base and conspiring to possess firearms during and in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense.

Anthony THOMAS, 26, Faribault - Conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base.

Ebony BROWN, 19, Faribault - Conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base.

Angela DECOUX, 31, Faribault - Conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base.

Thomas DAVIS, JR, age unknown, Faribault - Conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base.

Sara KATRA, 36, Faribault - Conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base.

Troy KRENZ, 39, Faribault - Use of a communication facility to commit drug trafficking activities.

Ryan OLSON, 30, Faribault – Use of a communication facility to commit drug trafficking activities.

The following individual was arrested on June 7 in Eden Prairie, MN:

Delveccio SMITH, 25, Brooklyn Center - Conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base, conspiring to possess firearms during and in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense, and possessing and discharging a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense

The following individuals were arrested on June 7 in Minneapolis, MN:

Charles BICKHAM, 19, Minneapolis - Conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base and conspiring to possess firearms during and in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense

Terry ARRINGTON, 21, St. Paul - Conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine base and conspiring to possess firearms during and in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense

The investigation, named Operation Rolling Rock, was conducted by the Violent Offender Task Force (VOTF) which is a partnership of the Minneapolis Police Department, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Throughout the investigation, assistance was provided by the Minnesota State Patrol,
Rice County Sheriff's Office, Faribault Police Department, South Central Drug Investigations
Unit and the United States Attorney's Office.

Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan said "Joint efforts such as this enhance the public safety for the citizens of Minneapolis and the entire area."

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This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Anders Folk of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendants. The defendants, of course, are presumed innocent until such time as they plead guilty or are proven guilty at trial.