



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIVE MORE INDICTED IN SPARTANBURG'S "SUMMER OF SILENCE"

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. WALTER WILKINS stated today that Marcus James Byrd, age 25, of Spartanburg, Quinton Ryan Kelly, age 26, of Wellford, Anthony Tyrone Mills, age 35, of Spartanburg, Jeremy Vashon Tucker, age 29, of Spartanburg, and Terron Jamar Watson, age 26, of Spartanburg, were indicted by a federal grand jury for being convicted felons in possession of a firearm. The prosecutions are a part of Spartanburg County's "Summer of Silence" initiative, in which all levels of law enforcement and Solicitor Trey Gowdy's office are working in concert with the ATF and the U.S. Attorney's Office to review every firearm or ammunition case made in Spartanburg County this summer for possible adoption and prosecution in the federal system.

The charges against Byrd stem from a traffic stop initiated by Wellford Police Department officers in June of this year. Officers recovered a gun from the vehicle as well a quantity of drugs.

The charges against Kelley also stem from a traffic stop initiated by Wellford

Police Department officers in March of this year. Kelley was arrested for driving with a suspended license. Officers allegedly recovered a firearm and drugs during a search of his vehicle after the arrest.

The charges against Mills stem from the execution of a search warrant at Mills' residence. Recovered from the residence were a firearm and ammunition, as well as a quantity of drugs.

The charges against Tucker stem from a self-inflicted shooting.

The charges against Watson stem from another traffic stop initiated by Wellford Police Department officers in March of this year. Watson was arrested for failure to stop. A search of his vehicle yielded a firearm and ammunition as well as a quantity of drugs.

Mr. Wilkins stated that the cases were investigated by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, the Spartanburg Department of Public Safety, and the Wellford Police Department, and that he has assigned the cases to Assistant United States Attorney James D. Galyean of the Greenville office for prosecution.

The prosecutions are a part of Operation CeaseFire. CeaseFire is a joint local, state, and federal initiative which seeks to aggressively prosecute individuals who unlawfully use, possess, or transfer firearms.

The United States Attorney stated that all charges in these Indictments are merely accusations and that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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