

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Eastern District of Michigan

211 W. Fort Street
Suite 2001

Detroit, Michigan 48226

CONTACT: Gina Balaya - USAO (313) 226-9758

Vera Fedorak - ATF (313) 259-7917

EVENT: INDICTMENT

DEFENDANTS: 10 individuals from Ypsilanti

DATE: January 18, 2005

10 INDIVIDUALS FROM YPSILANTI CHARGED WITH DRUG CONSPIRACY AND MURDER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ten individuals were charged in an indictment, which was returned on January 13, 2005 and unsealed today, with conspiracy to violate federal controlled substance laws and seven of the defendants were charged with the September 23, 2001, murder of Seth Thompson, a resident of Ypsilanti, Michigan, announced United States Attorney Craig S. Morford, Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Sheriff Daniel J. Minzey, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department.

Named in the indictment were Mario Taylor, 23, Antonio Taylor, 30, Carlos Taylor, 27, Michael Taylor, 28, Terrance Smith, 22, David Reynolds, 23, Elvin Walker, 24, Leon Roberts, 31, London Dottery, 23, and Greg Cheatham, 32, all life long residents of

Ypsilanti.

The indictment alleges that the charged individuals conspired to run a drug organization which operated in the Ypsilanti area from 1998 through 2004. The drugs were purchased in Detroit and elsewhere and transported to the Ypsilanti area for sale and distribution. As part of the conspiracy, and in an effort to protect their profits, MARIO TAYLOR, ANTONIO TAYLOR, CARLOS TAYLOR, TERRANCE SMITH, DAVID REYNOLDS, LEON ROBERTS AND LONDON DOTTERY were charged with killing Seth Thompson as a means of eliminating competition.

Antonio Taylor, Michael Taylor and David Reynolds, Leon Roberts all appeared today in federal court in Detroit and were temporarily detained pending a detention hearing which will be held tomorrow.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. It will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department.

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