



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**STAPLETON CREW MEMBERS INDICTED FOR RACKETEERING**  
***Charges Include Murder of Two Undercover Police Officers***

**ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOPF**, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, **DANIEL M. DONOVAN**, Richmond County District Attorney, **WILLIAM G. McMAHON**, Special Agent-in-Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, New York ("ATF"), and **RAYMOND W. KELLY**, Commissioner, New York City Police Department ("NYPD"), today announced that a federal grand jury in Brooklyn has returned an

indictment against five members of a violent criminal enterprise, “the Stapleton Crew,” who terrorized the residents of the Stapleton section of Staten Island for years. The defendants, RONNELL WILSON, also known as “Rated R,” MICHAEL WHITTEN, PARIS BULLOCK, ANGEL RODRIGUEZ, also known as “ICE,” and JAMAL BROWN, also known as “Mal,” are named in a 30-count indictment unsealed this morning charging racketeering, murder, murder conspiracies, narcotics trafficking, obstruction of justice, carjacking, robbery and firearms offenses. Specifically, WILSON, WHITTEN and BULLOCK are charged in connection with the March 10, 2003 murder and robbery of New York City Police Detectives James Nemorin and Rodney J. Andrews during an undercover firearms transaction.<sup>1</sup>

WILSON, BULLOCK, WHITTEN and BROWN will be arraigned later today before United States District Judge Nicholas G. Garaufis at the U. S. Courthouse, 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York. Rodriguez will be arraigned at a later date. The case has been assigned to Judge Garaufis for all purposes.

According to the indictment, the defendants were members of a violent robbery and narcotics crew that operated in the Stapleton section of Staten Island from late 1999 until March 2003. Several of the crew’s members grew up in the Stapleton Housing Project and began committing crimes with one another at early ages. The Stapleton crew’s lucrative crack cocaine distribution network spanned several neighborhoods in Staten Island and reaped thousands of dollars in profits. The crew possessed an arsenal of illegal firearms available to all members to

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<sup>1</sup> The charges contained in the indictment are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. In 2003, indictments were returned in Richmond County charging WILSON, WHITTEN and BULLOCK with the murder of Detectives Nemorin and Andrews, and related charges.

protect their narcotics operation and to intimidate and eliminate their enemies through repeated acts of violence. The defendants frequently engaged in drive-by shootings on public streets against rival gang members, particularly members of the 456 Crew headquartered in the New Brighton section of Staten Island, endangering the lives of many innocent bystanders. Crew members also assaulted and robbed rival drug traffickers on a regular basis, robbed a taxi driver, and conspired to rob "Oz," a Staten Island commercial clothing store located at 105 Water Street.

In March of 2003, the New York City Police Department Firearms Investigation Unit began an investigation of the crew. On March 3, 2003, Detective Nemorin, posing as an international gun trafficker, purchased a firearm from WHITTEN and other crew members. Thereafter, on March 10, 2003, Detective Nemorin and Detective Andrews, working in undercover capacities, arranged to purchase a second firearm from the crew. However, this time WILSON and others decided to rob the detectives, rather than sell them another firearm. WILSON and another crew associate met with the detectives and later directed them to drive to Hannah Street in Staten Island. Once there, WILSON, concluding that Andrews and Nemorin were in fact police officers, drew a .44 caliber firearm and shot both detectives in the head, killing them instantly.

The investigation resulting in today's indictment was conducted by ATF, the NYPD, the United States Attorney's Office and the Richmond County District Attorney, and is part of an ongoing effort to rid Staten Island neighborhoods of violence bred by drug crimes and illegal firearms. That effort included the February 2004 arrests of 30 members and associates of two Staten Island-based crack cocaine drug gangs, known as the Deuce Mob and Mob-Up crews, on narcotics and firearms charges; the November 2003 arrests of two gun traffickers, Eddie

Gravelly and Badar Taylor, who transported approximately 65 firearms from Georgia to Staten Island – several of those firearms were sold to gang members and ten were subsequently recovered at crime scenes in New York, including one murder; and the July 2004 arrests of more than 53 drug dealers and buyers in the vicinity of the Stapleton Houses in an operation which was an offshoot of the NYPD’s “Good Neighbor” program. Intelligence gathered from these and other cases provided investigators with insight into the Staten Island gang culture, as well as information leading to today’s indictment.

“The federal government has a substantial interest in bringing to bear its unique resources – including an array of new charges, appropriately severe penalties, evidentiary advantages, and witness protection – to address the violence unleashed by these defendants on the residents of Staten Island,” stated United States Attorney **MAUSKOPF**. “The Stapleton Crew has terrorized our neighborhoods with its particular brand of violence and intimidation for years, culminating its reign of terror with the execution of two courageous police officers. Today’s indictment marks a significant step in ridding the community of these criminals and delivering justice to the families of their victims.” Ms. **MAUSKOPF** commended Richmond County District Attorney Donovan for his office’s painstakingly thorough investigation into the murders of Detectives Nemorin and Andrews, and extended her appreciation to Mr. Donovan for his continued cooperation and assistance. Ms. **MAUSKOPF** stated that the investigation is continuing.

District Attorney **DONOVAN** stated, “When I assumed the office of District Attorney, I pledged that my office would explore all options in the prosecution of this case. Following an extensive investigation, last June I requested that U. S. Attorney Mausekopf review

the case for the possible presentation of federal charges. The indictment presented by the U. S. Attorney represents the strongest possible charges and most severe penalties that could be brought against those responsible for the assassination of Detectives Nemorin and Andrews.”

ATF Special Agent-in-Charge **McMAHON** stated, “Our thoughts and prayers are still with the families of these two brave Detectives. Protecting the public is law enforcement’s top priority. The men and women who do this job do so at times with great peril. ATF is committed to keeping the public safe by removing armed criminals from our streets and working with our state and local partners to do so.”

NYPD Commissioner **KELLY** stated, “The most important aspect of this indictment is that the killer of Detectives Nemorin and Andrews may face the death penalty. Anyone who murders a police officer should himself forfeit his life. We hope it also gives some measure of justice to the families of these heroic officers.”

If convicted, WILSON faces a maximum sentence of death, or life imprisonment, for the murders of Detectives Nemorin and Andrews. If convicted of the most serious charges against them, WHITTEN, BULLOCK, RODRIGUEZ and BROWN each faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

The state’s case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Paul Capofari, Wanda DeOliveira, Michael Bousquet and David Frey. The federal case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jack Smith and Colleen Kavanagh.

**The Defendants:**

RONELL WILSON  
DOB: 5/6/82  
Residence: (Incarcerated)

MICHAEL WHITTEN  
DOB: 10/23/83  
Residence: (Incarcerated)

PARIS BULLOCK  
DOB: 2/20/82  
Residence: (Incarcerated)

ANGEL RODRIGUEZ  
DOB: 6/22/82  
Residence: (Incarcerated)

JAMAL BROWN  
DOB: 8/22/82  
Residence: 45 Seaver Ave., Staten Island, NY