



Department of Justice

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NINETEEN INDICTED IN EVANSVILLE DRUG AND FIREARMS TRAFFICKING CASE

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced the indictment of 19 crack cocaine and firearms traffickers, which was unsealed today in U.S. District Court in Evansville. Law enforcement officers from the region participated in the execution of arrest and search warrants related to the investigation on persons and residences in the Evansville, Indiana, Chicago, Illinois, and elsewhere. The indictment was the result of an investigation by the Evansville office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Violent Crimes Task Force, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Evansville Vanderburgh County Drug Task Force, the Evansville Police Department, the United States Marshal Service and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

The indictment charges nineteen individuals as follows:

- Jesse Young, 25, of Chicago, Illinois
- Mark Lewis, 29, of Chicago, Illinois
- Lee Blanton, 29, of Chicago, Illinois
- Anthony Chew, 22, of Chicago, Illinois
- Quentin Nowells, 24, of Evansville, Indiana and formerly of Georgia
- Michael Redmond, 28, of Chicago, Illinois
- Lawrence Brandon, 28, of Chicago, Illinois
- Kevin Thomas, 22, of Chicago, Illinois
- Aaron McNeil, 20 of Chicago, Illinois
- Vonette Cabell, 33, of Evansville, Indiana
- William Somers, 35, of Evansville, Indiana
- Charles Avery, Jr., 37, of Chicago, Illinois
- William Suber, III, 31, of Chicago, Illinois
- Tiffany Walden, 20, of Evansville, Indiana

- December Wilson, 29, of Evansville, Indiana
- Thomas McKnight, 27, of Evansville, Indiana
- Monica Rozell, 42, of Evansville, Indiana
- Nikisha Leathers, 27, of Evansville, Indiana
- Constanza Smallings, 28, of Evansville, Indiana

Young, Lewis, Blanton, Nowells, Thomas, McNeil and Suber are alleged to be members of the “Black P Stones” Chicago based criminal street gang. The defendants are alleged to have used and relied upon their ties to the gang, which has a well known reputation for armed violence and drug distribution, to further their drug and firearms trafficking activities in Evansville and Chicago.

The Indictment charges 15 of the defendants with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute “crack” cocaine, and other substantive drug charges. Four additional defendants are charged along with Young, Blanton and Nowells with conspiracy to engage in the straw purchase of firearms and the trafficking of those firearms from Evansville to Chicago. Several of the defendants are charged with various incidents of armed violence in Evansville in furtherance of the drug and gun trafficking activities as outlined in the Indictment.

"This investigation was a joint effort among multiple law enforcement agencies to make our streets safer and rid our community of dangerous individuals," said FBI Special Agent in Charge Michael S. Welch. "The FBI will continue to partner with our law enforcement colleagues to ensure illegal drug traffickers are held accountable for their activities," he added.

“ATF is working with our law enforcement partners to combat firearm related violent crime. We will continue to relentlessly pursue drug dealers, firearms traffickers and violent criminals that prey upon innocent residents of this city,” said Christopher P. Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm and Explosives (ATF) Columbus Field Division.

Gary G. Olenkiewicz, Special Agent in Charge, DEA Chicago Field Office said, “The DEA values its partnership with the FBI, ATF, the U.S. Marshals and the Evansville Police Department. We will continue to work with them as well as other federal, state and local agencies to rid our neighborhoods of illegal narcotics and the criminals who sell them.”

During the execution of search and arrest warrants today, approximately \$2,700 cash was seized, along with approximately 96 grams of crack. A 9 millimeter handgun was also recovered at the location where Jesse Young was arrested.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Matthew P. Brookman, who is prosecuting the case for the government, most of the defendants, if convicted, face maximum possible prison sentences of life imprisonment. Defendant Wilson faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 30 years imprisonment. Defendants McKnight, Rozell, Leathers and Smallings, who are charged

only in the firearms conspiracy and related charges, face maximum possible prison sentences of 10 years.

Initial hearings began at 9:00 a.m. this morning for some of the defendants before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Evansville.

The indictment is an allegation only, and all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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