



**United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan**

**Barbara L. McQuade
United States Attorney**

PRESS RELEASE

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15 INDIVIDUALS INDICTED IN LARGE SCALE DRUG CONSPIRACY CASE

Fifteen individuals have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on federal charges, United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade announced. Ms. McQuade was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Robert L. Corso, Drug Enforcement Administration, Special Agent in Charge David McCain, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Special Agent in Charge Andrew Arena, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Special Agent in Charge Erick Martinez, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation.

Indicted were Orlando Ricardo Gordon, 32, of Franklin, Vince Jerome Shivers, 42, of Southfield, Derrick Arnold Terry, 51, of Detroit, Danta Shamu-Parker Johnson, 34, of Detroit, Darren Davon Terry, 35, of Detroit, Trenton Jordan Obamwonyi, 27, of Detroit, Tamiko Mel-Lang Hodo, 36, of Detroit, Anthony Wayne Hall, 46, of Detroit, Anton Jamail Harris, 32, of Detroit, Ervin Kenneth Vincent, 24, of Inkster Darnell Darryl Easterling, 48, of Detroit, Courtney Deon Shafi Strickland, 36, of Detroit, Benjamin Isaac Carter, 39, of Detroit, Erik Lee Ross, 34, of Sterling Heights, and Allen Corey Terry, 47, of Farmington Hills.

As alleged in the indictment, the conspiracy lasted for years, dating back to 2008, and involved in excess of 1,000 kilograms of marijuana, 5 kilograms of cocaine, and 280 grams of crack cocaine. Some of the defendants are also charged with being felons illegally possessing firearms. The narcotics trafficking conspiracy carries possible sentences of 10 years to life in prison and a \$10 million fine, and the felon in possession charges carry possible sentences of up to 10 years of prison.

The investigation involved multiple federal agencies, including DEA, ATF, FBI, and IRS. The investigation included seizures of large sums of U.S. Currency, including a seizure of more than \$500,000 from a residence in Franklin, Michigan, large quantities of drugs, including a seizure of over 1,000 kilograms/2,200 pounds of marijuana, and multiple firearms.

United States Attorney McQuade stated that, "Large-scale drug trafficking and accompanying gun crimes create danger and fear in our neighborhoods. The coordinated efforts of multiple law enforcement agencies helped to dismantle this conspiracy."

ATF Special Agent in Charge David McCain said, "Narcotics trafficking along with violent firearm activity destroys the families and neighborhoods in our communities. ATF along with its state, local and federal partners will continue to aggressively pursue those violent individuals and organizations that cripple our communities with crime."

DEA Special Agent in Charge Robert L. Corso said, "Today's arrests are significant. These individuals directed a major marijuana and cocaine trafficking ring that operated throughout southeast Michigan. The dismantling of this organization has halted the flow of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of illegal drugs into metropolitan Detroit. This investigation exemplifies the strong collaborative effort that exists between DEA and our federal, state and local law enforcement partners, and is a positive step towards making our community safer for everyone.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena said, "Narcotics trafficking continues to plague this region and directly contributes to violence on our streets. The FBI will continue to partner with federal, state, and local law enforcement to address these issues."

IRS Special Agent in Charge Erick Martinez said, "This indictment illustrates the seriousness behind prosecuting drug-trafficking crimes. The role of IRS-CI is to take the profit out of these illegal organizations. Drug dealers pollute our neighborhoods with no regret as their actions are only fueled by greed. The seizure of their illegal proceeds, drugs and weapons brings us one step closer to justice."

The Detroit Police Department, the Franklin Police Department, the Troy Police Department, the Novi Police Department, the Warren Police Department, the Michigan State Police, and the U.S. Marshal Service also assisted in the investigation of the case.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.