



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHMOND COUNTY

MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

130 STUYVESANT PLACE
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301
TELEPHONE (718) 876-6300

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release on December 5, 2017

Contact: Ryan Lavis (718) 556-7150
Ryan.Lavis@rcda.nyc.gov

D.A. McMahon Announces Takedown of Crack Cocaine Distribution Network Operating from South Beach Houses

***Investigation resulted in arrests and indictments of 11 alleged drug dealers
operating within NYCHA Development***

Staten Island, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced arrests and indictments of 11 individuals for operating a crack cocaine distribution network from the South Beach Houses in Staten Island following a long-term investigation by NYPD Narcotics Borough Staten Island, the District Attorney’s Office, and the New York City Department of Investigation. Several of the defendants are alleged gang members who illegally resided on the NYCHA property.

“For years, this crew of alleged drug dealers peddled dangerous narcotics from the South Beach Houses, terrorizing the community at large and exacerbating the drug epidemic on Staten Island. While past efforts by law enforcement have yielded results to this problem, these arrests and indictments represent the most significant actions taken to stem the tide of drugs flowing from this area,” said **District Attorney Michael E. McMahon**. “This long-term investigation was enhanced through our Overdose Response Initiative, which allowed us to target dealers linked to at least three overdoses that occurred on Staten Island. The dedicated teamwork by members of NYPD Narcotics Borough Staten Island, prosecutors from my office’s Narcotics-Investigations Bureau, and the New York City Department of Investigation will create a safer community for the residents of South Beach. We will continue working hand in hand with our partners in law enforcement to put drug dealers in jail and stop the flow of illegal narcotics on Staten Island.”

New York City Department of Investigation’s Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, “NYCHA residents and their families deserve to live in safe communities, not next door to violent drug dealers and gang members illegally residing on NYCHA property. DOI is proud to work with its law enforcement partners to ensure the safety of NYCHA’s tenants in the South Beach Houses and across the City.”

The seven-month investigation began in April 2017 and was dubbed “Stem the Tide,” as investigators targeted the upper hierarchy of the drug distribution network within the South Beach Houses. Throughout the course of the operation, detectives seized approximately 77 grams of crack cocaine from undercover buys from this network. It is also estimated that this network grossed approximately \$10,000 weekly in drug sales.

At least three drug overdoses being investigated under the Overdose Response Initiative were linked to subjects in this investigation.

Detectives last Wednesday executed search warrants at 14 locations in and around the South Beach Houses.

The defendants indicted and arraigned Wednesday were: BRANDON WHITEN; TYRONE JONES; NAHSHON HOPKINS; SHAKEE DAVIS; LORI GALLO; CHRISTOPHER HOWARD; RYDELL LATTA; TYSEAN MOORE; JOHN KENRICK; MUHAMMAD SPENCER; DARNELL TROTMAN.

=====

The charges contained in the indictments are merely allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The prosecution of this case is being handled by Assistant District Attorney Carrie Low and John Hall under the supervision of ADAs Michelle Molfetta and Kelly Carroll, Deputy Chiefs of the Narcotics-Investigations Bureau. The lead NYPD investigator is Detective Anthony Massoni of Narcotics Borough Staten Island, acting under the supervision of Capt. Theodore Lauterborn, Commanding Officer of Narcotics Borough Staten Island, all under the supervision of Inspector Mark DiPaolo, Commanding Officer of Detective Borough Staten Island and Chief Edward Delatorre, Commanding Officer of Patrol Borough Staten Island.

###