



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **FEDERAL-STATE-LOCAL DRUG TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN THIRTEEN INDICTED IN FEDERAL COURT**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; STEPHEN A. LUZINSKI, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration; JONATHON MONKEN, Director of the Illinois State Police; Illinois State Police; JOSEPH BRUSCATO, Winnebago County State’s Attorney; RICHARD MEYERS, Winnebago County Sheriff; and CHET EPPERSON, Rockford Police Chief, today made the following announcement:

Yesterday, a federal grand jury in Rockford returned a superseding indictment against 13 **Rockford area residents** on federal charges of conspiring to distribute more than 1 kilogram of heroin, and more than 50 grams of cocaine base (“crack”) throughout Rockford from the summer of 2007 through September 1, 2009. The superseding indictment is the result of a lengthy investigation conducted by federal, state, and local law enforcement, and coordinated by the United States Attorney. Those charged in the superseding indictment are:

HOLLIS O. DANIELS, 33, also known as “Duck”;  
KENNETH L. BLOCK, 37, also known as “Puppet”;  
KENNETH D. TOWNSEND, 22, also known as “Bam”;  
JOHN KNOX, 36, also known as “Jigga”;  
JAMEL GREGORY, 30, also known as “Mello”;  
NATHANIEL CLAY, 39, also known as “Plug”;  
CHARLES GARY, 32, also known as “Do Dirty”;  
SAMUEL SMITH, 39, also known as “Crunch”;  
LIKITA EISON, 28;  
CALVIN DAVIS, 36;  
JOSEPHINE SIMS, 29;  
SAMUEL PEEPLES, 28; and,  
ANDREW ETHERIDGE, 30, also known as “Drew”

If convicted of this offense, each defendant faces a minimum term of 10 years' imprisonment and a maximum term of life imprisonment. In addition, each defendant could be fined up to \$4,000,000. If convicted, each defendant's actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Defendants sentenced in federal court are not eligible for parole.

Five of the defendants - Daniels, Block, Townsend, Knox, and Gregory - were charged in federal court by indictment on September 9, 2009 with conspiring to distribute more than one kilogram of heroin. Each of those defendants pleaded not guilty to that charge and remains in federal custody while the case is pending. The superseding indictment adds 8 additional defendants, adds crack cocaine as one of the objects of the conspiracy, adds 6 separate counts against defendants Davis, Clay, Peeples, Etheridge, Eison, and Sims for possessing heroin with the intent to distribute it; adds 1 count against defendant Peeples for distributing heroin; adds 1 count against defendant Gary for possessing crack cocaine with the intent to distribute it; and adds 1 count against Eison and Sims for using a residence to manufacture and store heroin.

In addition to the federal charges, other individuals have been charged with various drug offenses in state court. Charging decisions were made in coordination with Winnebago County State's Attorney JOSEPH BRUSCATO.

The federal and state cases are being jointly investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Illinois State Police and the Stateline Area Narcotics Team ("SLANT"); the Winnebago County Sheriff's Police Department; and the City of Rockford Police Department. The case will be prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys MARK T. KARNER and JOSEPH E. PEDERSEN.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment is only an allegation and is not evidence of guilt. Each defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government will have the burden of proving his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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