



DISTRICT ATTORNEY
KINGS COUNTY
350 JAY STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11201-2908
(718) 250-2000
WWW.BROOKLYNDA.ORG

Kenneth P. Thompson
District Attorney

Office of Public Information
718-250-2300

**KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KENNETH P. THOMPSON AND NYPD
COMMISSIONER WILLIAM J. BRATTON ANNOUNCE ARREST OF 12 FOR
DEALING CRACK COCAINE IN CROWN HEIGHTS AFTER A YEAR LONG
UNDERCOVER OPERATION**

*DEFENDANTS SOLD CRACK COCAINE, HEROIN AND ALPRAZOLAM WITHIN A ONE
BLOCK RADIUS OF A MIDDLE SCHOOL*

Brooklyn, January 30- Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson and New York Police Department Commissioner William J. Bratton today announced the arrests of 12 individuals who allegedly sold crack cocaine, heroin and alprazolam to undercover officers approximately 120 times, beginning in January 2013, often making deliveries near a middle school.

“We simply will not tolerate the sale of crack cocaine and heroin anywhere in Brooklyn, let alone near a school that young children attend. These arrests show our determination to investigate and prosecute anyone who deals drugs in our neighborhoods,” said District Attorney Thompson.

Police Commissioner William J. Bratton said, “The NYPD initiated a year-long investigation that dismantled a drug dealing network that peddled crack cocaine less than a block from a middle school and instilled fear in local residents in and around the Sterling community. The joint efforts of the investigators from Narcotics Borough Brooklyn North, 77th Precinct, and the Kings County District Attorney’s Office ended this drug operation and the intimidation it exercised over the local neighborhood.”

The operation began in January 2013. It was a year-long, joint effort conducted by the Field Intelligence Officers of NYPD’s 77th Precinct, NYPD’s Narcotics Borough Brooklyn North and Thompson’s Major Narcotics Investigations Bureau.

During the investigation, undercover officers made approximately 120 purchases of crack/cocaine and heroin. The defendants allegedly sold the drugs in the vicinity of Sterling Place between Utica Avenue and Rochester Avenue, within a one-block radius of Middle School 394. Several of these dealers were part of a drug crew called “Sterling World.” The vast majority of the sales took place in the lobbies and walkways of the following residential buildings: 1470 Sterling Place, 1488 Sterling Place, 1506 Sterling Place, 1522 Sterling Place and 1492 Park Place.

The following individuals were charged with crack/cocaine, heroin and/or alprazolam sales made during the year-long investigation: Roberto Arroyo, Rosetta Cochran, Rasheen Ellerbe, Keith Green, Michael Henningham, Ross Julien, Corey Jones, Keith Jones, Robert St. Hilaire, Edwin Ortero, Clarence Sutton and Jarrius Vereen. Execution of five search warrants at targeted locations resulted in the seizure of firearms and additional quantities of controlled substances. The defendants are scheduled to be arraigned later today in Kings County Criminal Court. A list of defendants and charges are attached. Both Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in or Near School Grounds and Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree are Class B Felonies.

The investigation was conducted by Police Officer Marlon Bethel under the supervision of Sergeant David Cheesewright, 77 Precinct Field Intelligence Officers, and was investigated by Detective James Rivera under the supervision of Captain Andrew Valenzano, Narcotics Borough Brooklyn North. Assistant District Attorneys Tara Lenich and Amanda Raimondi are prosecuting the case for the Major Narcotics Investigations Bureau.

These charges are allegations. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Defendant Information

ROBERTO ARROYO, D.O.B. 7/11/1985
1535 Sterling Place

Charges:

- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, In or Near School Grounds, a class B felony, 1 count
- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 3 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 3 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 1 count

ROSETTA COCHRAN, D.O.B. 11/26/1962
1506 Sterling Place, 1A

Charges:

- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, In or Near School Grounds, a class B felony, 1 count
- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 1 count
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 1 count
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 1 count

RASHEEN ELLERBE, D.O.B. 2/1/1985

1546 St. John's Place, 1D

Charges:

- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, In or Near School Grounds, a class B felony, 4 counts
- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 5 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 5 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 1 count

KEITH GREEN, D.O.B. 3/9/1989

127 Kingsborough 1 Walk 5E

1470 Sterling Place, D2

Charges:

- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, In or Near School Grounds, a class B felony, 19 counts
- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class felony, 19 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 19 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 1 count

MICHAEL HENNINGHAM, D.O.B. 2/25/1972

1504 Park Place, 3F

Charges:

- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, In or Near School Grounds, a class B felony, 5 counts
- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 6 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 6 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 1 count

COREY JONES, D.O.B. 11/27/1980

1488 Sterling Place, B1

Charges:

- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, In or Near School Grounds, a class B felony, 9 counts
- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 11 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 11 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 1 count

KEITH JONES, D.O.B. 2/12/1979

1488 Sterling Place, B1

Charges:

- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, In or Near School Grounds, a class B felony, 10 counts
- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 12 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 12 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 1 count

ROSS JULIEN, D.O.B. 2/18/1985

1080 East 99th Street

Charges:

- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, In or Near School Grounds, a class B felony, 1 count
- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 1 count
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 1 count
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 1 count

EDWIN OTERO, D.O.B. 4/15/1960

1474 Park Place, 1B

Charges:

- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Fifth Degree, a class D felony, 1 count
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Fifth Degree, a class D felony, 1 count
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 1 count

ROBERT ST. HILAIRE, D.O.B. 3/28/1985

1238 St. Marks Place

Charges:

- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, In or Near School Grounds, a class B felony, 4 counts
- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 12 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 12 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 1 count

CLARENCE SUTTON, D.O.B. 4/29/1990

1506 Sterling Place, 1B

Charges:

- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, In or Near School Grounds, a class B felony, 13 counts
- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 13 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 13 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 1 count

JARRIUS VEREEN, D.O.B. 3/25/1990
1512 Park Place

Charges:

- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, In or Near School Grounds, a class B felony, 2 counts
- Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 4 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony, 4 counts
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, a class A misdemeanor, 1 count

###

Contact:
Office of Public Information
Kings County District Attorney's Office
718-250-2300