

# Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York

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## 11 members of "6 Wild" Bronx gang charged in violent home invasion robberies

BRIDGET G. BRENNAN, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, New York City Police Commissioner RAYMOND W. KELLY and Bronx District Attorney ROBERT JOHNSON announced today the arrest and indictment of 11 leaders and members of a violent, drug dealing street gang, "6 Wild," which amassed large quantities of narcotics and cash through violent home invasion robberies, in which victims were severely beaten. The 58-count indictment charges the defendants with conspiracy to commit attempted murder, robbery, assault, narcotics and weapons possession and sales, and substantive counts of robbery, burglary, assault, menacing, strangulation and drug possession. Three firearms were seized in the course of the probe.

The long-term investigation, conducted by the Special Narcotics Gang Prosecution Unit, the NYPD's 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct Field Intelligence Sergeant, Assistant Field Intelligence Officers and Strategic Enforcement Team, and the Bronx District Attorney's Office, linked members of 6 Wild to a pattern of home invasion robberies spanning two years between June 2011 and June 2013. The gang targeted individuals whom they believed to be drug dealers, in part because these victims would be unlikely to report robberies to law enforcement. However, in at least three instances, the gang members robbed innocent people instead. These three robberies were reported to the NYPD.

Gang leader JAMEEKGA JOSEPH, his brother WAKIMI JOSEPH, DASHAWN HILL, and LIONEL JOHNSON face charges of robbery, burglary and menacing, as well as drug charges in connection with these three reported robberies of innocent victims, as well as conspiracy charges in connection with other robberies. JAMEEKGA JOSEPH, DASHAWN HILL and LIONEL JOHNSON face charges additional charges of assault and strangulation stemming from violent attacks on the innocent robbery victims, who were threatened with firearms, beaten with heavy objects and choked. In all three instances, the gang utilized a female juvenile to gain entry into target locations.

6 Wild operates in the Morrisania section of the Bronx, from around Clay Avenue to College Avenue and from East 165th Street to East 167th Street. During the course of the conspiracy, members of 6 Wild were involved in at least a dozen retaliatory shootings stemming from turf battles with rival groups. The gang used two adjacent buildings at 1041 Findlay Ave. and 1055 Findlay Ave. as their base of operations, and as stash locations for narcotics and firearms respectively.

A total of 11 gang members ranging in age from 19 to 24 were arrested beginning yesterday morning, including two who were already in custody on prior charges. Police seized one firearm during a court

authorized search of a residence at 1009 Morris Avenue in the Bronx, and drug packaging materials in a second search at 1106 Morris Avenue. The defendants are expected to be arraigned today before Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Arlene D. Goldberg in Part 56, 111 Centre Street.

JAHMEEKGA JOSEPH, aka "Fresh, and his brother WAIKIMI JOSEPH, aka "Problem" were already in custody on prior charges filed by the Bronx District Attorney's Office. JAHMEEKGA JOSEPH was arrested on Oct. 4, 2012 at 1041 Findlay Ave., which is used by the gang as a stash location for drugs. Police seized two ounces of cocaine at the time of the arrest. During the course of the investigation, police seized another two firearms from juveniles associated with 6 Wild.

## **Home Invasion Robberies**

Members of 6 Wild are believed to have carried out approximately two home invasion robberies each month during the course of the two-year conspiracy. The indictment charges 6 Wild members with conspiracy charges for these robberies, as well as substantive counts to three robberies that took place in February 2012. JAHMEEKGA JOSEPH is charged in all of the three robberies of innocent victims that took place in February 2012. DASHAWN HILL, LIONEL JOHNSON and WAIKIMI JOSEPH are charged in two.

In plotting these robberies, gang leaders attempted to collect information about suspected stash locations used by cocaine and heroin dealers. Female juveniles associated with 6 Wild assisted in this process. Under gang leaders' direction, a female would befriend the intended victim in advance of the planned robberies and learn what she could about drugs, money and the best time to strike. Then, on the day of a robbery, the same female associate helped the robbers gain entry, in some cases texting the robbers from inside the target location. The robbers carried stolen bags by designers Gucci and Louis Vuitton to the robbery locations in order to transport the loot.

Once inside the location, members of 6 Wild typically held a gun to the victim's head and threatened to shoot if their demands for drugs and cash were not met. In each of the three February 2012 robberies, the victim was beaten and in some cases choked. The robbers stole cash, jewelry, cell phones and other valuables.

In one robbery of an innocent victim on Feb. 7, 2012 in the Bronx, JAHMEEKGA JOSEPH and other gang members set out to rob a drug dealer, but encountered the man's brother instead. The brother was not involved in the drug trade and there were no narcotics in the residence. Nevertheless, the robbers held a gun to the brother's head and then beat him unconscious with a heavy frying pan and a door ripped from an entertainment center. They stole bags, jewelry, clothing and money.

The robberies of innocent victims were reported to the police. In addition to witness testimony, private security cameras recorded activity in two of the robbery locations. Video surveillance shows the robbers going in and out at the time of the crime. Facebook messages and text messages from participants' phones corroborate this evidence.

When drug dealers were targeted, members of 6 Wild stole large quantities of narcotics, in addition to cash and other valuables. One of the larger hauls consisted of three kilos (6.6 lbs.) of cocaine. Following the robberies, members of 6 Wild would re-package the narcotics and distribute the drugs among members of the gang for resale. Other stolen property, such as cash, jewelry, cellphones and computers, was either distributed among gang members or sold.

## **Retaliatory Shootings**

Members of 6 Wild held regular meetings at 1041 and 1055 Findlay Ave., where they discussed making money, the purchasing of weapons and disputes with rival groups. 6 Wild was engaged in at least a dozen violent confrontations with rival groups during the course of the conspiracy, including a gang

known as "280" and associated groups "Clay Avenue Boyz" and "Morris Avenue Gunners" during the course of the investigation. The majority of the retaliatory shootings took place in the Bronx, while at least one took place in Harlem.

Communal firearms were controlled by gang leaders, who directed juveniles and female associates to transport the weapons from place to place. Police seized two firearms from juvenile associates of 6 Wild during the investigation. Weapons were also stored at 1055 Findlay Ave., the home of defendants DONTAE SHEARD. During the investigation, police learned of a drive-by shooting at this location. JAMEEKGA JOSEPH was shot on or around the same day as this drive-by shooting.

## **Social Media**

Members of the gang made extensive use of social media and developed a distinctive "lingo," or system of code words and phrases, to communicate with one another about their criminal activity in exchanges on Facebook and YouTube. Social media was instrumental in recruiting new members and inciting violence against rival gangs. Code words for criminal activity included terms such as "Grip," "Glocc," "Tool," and "Bike" for firearm, and "Krills," "Grams," "Yams," and "Grizz" for narcotics.

During the investigation, Special Narcotics prosecutors and analysts, and members of the NYPD, reviewed hundreds of Facebook photographs and messages obtained through court authorized search warrants. Scores of photos the defendants posted on the site show large quantities of cash. In some photos, 6 Wild members posing with money, while others show shoeboxes or suitcases stuffed with cash, stolen jewelry and watches. Often photos of cash were posted on the same day as robberies or soon after.

On February 14, 2012, the day of a robbery, defendant WAIKIMI JOSEPH posted a photo of cash formed in the shape of a heart on Facebook along with the message "HAPPY V-DAY." The following day, another photo of a large amount of money was accompanied by the caption, "I BURRY THE MOST CASH ND BURNING THE REST!"

Defendant BRANDEN CULLINS, who began his association with 6 Wild as a juvenile, posted a photo on Facebook showing money spelling out the word "Wild," and wrote a caption "\$\$\$\$\$\$ WILDDDD \$\$\$\$\$\$." CULLINS was in possession of a firearm at the time of his arrest this morning.

BRIDGET G. BRENNAN thanked the office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, the NYPD's 44th Precinct Field Intelligence team.

"This group carried out vicious assaults, robberies and drug dealing. Each and every activity they were involved in threatened the safety of the people in their community," BRIDGET G. BRENNAN said. "They swore allegiance to only one thing -- the Gucci bags full of cash that they collected from committing their crimes."

Police Commissioner RAYMOND W. KELLY said, "The '6 Wild' crew thought that by using young women, juvenile boys and stashed guns they would evade police. They were wrong. They were undone by keen field intelligence in the 44th Precinct and the skilled decoding of the crew's social media, combined with the expertise and dedication of Special Narcotics Prosecutor's office. I commend all those involved in the pursuit and prosecution of this case. They are making the Bronx and the city at-large safer every day."

Bronx District Attorney ROBERT T. JOHNSON said, "Our office has had many dealings with the decent, hard-working residents of Morrisania. Their message to us has always been a loud and clear desire for crime-free streets. We will never give up the effort to provide them with the quality of life they deserve."

## INDICTED DEFENDANTS

## CHARGES

JAHMEEKGA JOSEPH a/k/a "Fresh"  
12/8/89  
371 East 165<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 21  
Bronx, NY

Conspiracy 1st -- 2 cts  
Conspiracy 2nd -- 2 cts  
Conspiracy 3rd -- 4 cts  
Conspiracy 4th -- 4 cts  
Robbery 1st -- 4 cts  
Robbery 2nd -- 9 cts  
Burglary 1st -- 6 cts  
Attempted Assault 1st -- 3 cts  
Attempted Gang Assault 1st -- 3 cts  
Assault 2nd -- 3 cts  
Criminal Obstruction of Breathing or Blood  
Circulation -- 2 cts  
Strangulation 2nd -- 2 cts  
Menacing 2nd -- 3 cts  
CPCS 3rd -- 2 cts  
CPCS 4th -- 1 ct  
Attempted CPCS 3rd -- 3 cts  
Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2nd -- 2  
cts  
Criminal Poss. of Stolen Property 4th -- 3 cts

DAYSHAWN HILL a/k/a "Weezy"  
7/2/90  
1041 Findlay Avenue, Apt. 6B  
Bronx, NY

Conspiracy 1st -- 2 cts  
Conspiracy 2nd -- 2 cts  
Conspiracy 3rd -- 4 cts  
Conspiracy 4th -- 4 cts  
Robbery 1st -- 2 cts  
Robbery 2nd -- 6 cts  
Burglary 1st -- 4 cts  
Attempted Assault 1st -- 2 cts  
Attempted Gang Assault 1st -- 2 cts  
Assault 2nd -- 2 cts  
Criminal Obstruction of Breathing or Blood  
Circulation -- 2 cts  
Strangulation 2nd -- 2 cts  
Menacing 2nd -- 2 cts  
Attempted CPCS 3rd -- 2 cts  
Criminal Poss. of Stolen Property 4th -- 2 cts

WAKIMI JOSEPH a/k/a "Problem"  
8/25/88  
671 East 165<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 21  
Bronx, NY

Conspiracy 1st -- 2 cts  
Conspiracy 2nd -- 2 cts  
Conspiracy 3rd -- 4 cts  
Conspiracy 4th -- 4 cts  
Robbery 1st -- 2 cts  
Robbery 2nd -- 6 cts  
Burglary 1st -- 4 cts  
Menacing 2nd -- 2 cts  
Attempted CPCS 3rd -- 2 cts  
Criminal Poss. of Stolen Property 4th -- 2 cts

LIONEL JOHNSON a/k/a "Jaba" 8/3/92 1368 Webster Avenue, Apt. 10H Bronx, NY	Conspiracy 1st -- 2 cts Conspiracy 2nd -- 2 cts Conspiracy 3rd -- 4 cts Conspiracy 4th -- 4 cts Robbery 1st -- 2 cts Robbery 2nd -- 6 cts Burglary 1st -- 4 cts Attempted Assault 1st -- 2 cts Attempted Gang Assault 1st -- 2 cts Assault 2nd -- 2 cts Criminal Obstruction of Breathing or Blood Circulation -- 2 cts Strangulation 2nd -- 2 cts Menacing 2nd -- 2 cts Attempted CPCS 3rd -- 2 cts Criminal Poss. of Stolen Property 4th -- 2 cts
DONTEA SHEARD a/k/a "Yogi" 4/21/91 1055 Findlay Avenue, Apt. 3C Bronx, NY	Conspiracy 1st -- 2 cts Conspiracy 2nd -- 2 cts Conspiracy 3rd -- 4 cts Conspiracy 4th -- 4 cts
EDDIE KENNEDY a/k/a "Boogz" 7/8/89 1119 Grant Avenue Bronx, NY	Conspiracy 1st -- 2 cts Conspiracy 2nd -- 2 cts Conspiracy 3rd -- 4 cts Conspiracy 4th -- 4 cts
STEPHON LEWIS a/k/a "Stef" 1/24/94 1212 Ogden Avenue Bronx, NY	Conspiracy 1st -- 2 cts Conspiracy 2nd -- 2 cts Conspiracy 3rd -- 4 cts Conspiracy 4th -- 4 cts
JAHVEL JOSEPH a/k/a "Vel" 1/13/93 371 East 165 <sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 21 Bronx, NY	Conspiracy 1st -- 2 cts Conspiracy 2nd -- 2 cts Conspiracy 3rd -- 4 cts Conspiracy 4th -- 4 cts
JAH DIEYA JOSEPH a/k/a "Dieya" 5/7/91 371 East 165 <sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 21 Bronx, NY	Conspiracy 1st -- 2 cts Conspiracy 2nd -- 2 cts Conspiracy 3rd -- 4 cts Conspiracy 4th -- 4 cts
DACHELL BAILEY a/k/a "Dee Jay" 2/10/96 1106 Morris Avenue, Apt. 1E Bronx, NY	Conspiracy 2nd -- 2 cts Conspiracy 4th -- 4 cts
BRANDEN CULLINS a/k/a "G-Baby" 8/5/95 1009 Morris Avenue, Apt. 2 Bronx, NY	Conspiracy 2nd -- 2 cts Conspiracy 4th -- 4 cts

The charges and allegations are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.