

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

Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor

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Barbershop quintet clipped in citywide cocaine ring

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, announced today the arrests of five drug traffickers in connection with sales of nearly \$45,000 in cocaine from two barbershops in the Bronx and Brooklyn.

The arrests, which took place late yesterday, are the result of an 18-month wiretap investigation by the NYPD's Narcotics Borough Bronx Major Case Unit and the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor. Since March 2012, the defendants made 16 sales to an undercover officer, totaling approximately 1.3 kilograms (3 lbs.) cocaine for \$44,660.

A dozen of these sales took place inside a busy barbershop owned by NOEL PERALTA, Noel Barber Shop & Unisex, at 430 East 138th St. in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. PERALTA and the undercover officer communicated by cellphone in setting up these transactions. The undercover officer purchased cocaine directly from PERALTA, who was assisted by individuals he employs as both barbers and narcotics dealers: JOSE FERNANDEZ AND CARLOS SANCHEZ GALAN. An additional defendant, FRANCIS QUEZADA, acted as deliverymen for PERALTA.

Cocaine was stored in a back room of the barbershop, which was guarded by an unidentified individual, or in the bathroom. Police also observed PERALTA, FERNANDEZ and GALAN selling to other customers from the barbershop.

Beyond the barbershop sales, PERALTA and FERNDANDEZ sold the undercover 60 grams of cocaine for \$2,000 in front of 560 Lenox Ave. in Manhattan, where PERALTA resides, after retrieving the drugs from inside. PERALTA and QUEZADA sold the undercover 100 grams of cocaine for \$3,400 in front of a salon at 157-11 Linden Blvd in Jamaica, Queens.

Detectives learned that PERALTA obtained the cocaine he sold from a supplier, JOSE CRUZ, who owns a barbershop in the Cypress Hills section of Brooklyn. On two occasions in the spring of 2013, PERALTA arranged for the undercover to purchase cocaine from CRUZ. These sales took place in the vicinity of CRUZ's barbershop, Antonio & Martin Barber Shop, located at 3154 Fulton Street. The first of these sales was the largest in the investigation. CRUZ sold the undercover 250 grams of cocaine (half a pound) for \$8,000 in the vicinity of 3160 Fulton Ave. While at the Brooklyn barbershop for the second sale, the undercover also received a haircut.

During court authorized searches of PERALTA and his apartment at 560 Lenox Ave., Apt. 5A, police seized approximately \$4,800 in cash and an eighth of an ounce of cocaine. Police also seized cellphones associated with the wiretap investigation.

The defendants are expected to be arraigned this afternoon in Manhattan Criminal Court.

INDICTED DEFENDANTS	CHARGES
Noel Peralta 560 Lenox Ave., Apt. 5A New York, NY 09/15/75	CSCS 1st -- 12 cts CSCS 2nd -- 4 cts Conspiracy 2nd -- 1 ct
Jose Cruz, aka "Cuni," aka "Sobrino" 205 Ridgewood Brooklyn, NY 03/21/67	CSCS 1st -- 2 cts Conspiracy 2nd -- 1 ct
Jose D. Fernandez 470 W. 166th St., Apt. 52 New York, NY 12/24/90	CSCS 1st -- 3 cts CSCS 2nd -- 1 ct Conspiracy 2nd -- 1 ct
Carlos Sanchez Galan 453 E. 137th St., Apt. 4A Bronx, NY 08/09/93	CSCS 2nd -- 1 ct Conspiracy 2nd -- 1 ct
Francis Quezada 30 Avenue D, Apt. 14C New York, NY 12/29/83	CSCS 1st -- 1 cts Conspiracy 2nd -- 1 ct

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