

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

Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor

80 Centre Street, Sixth Floor
New York, NY 10013
212-815-0400, Gen
212-815-0440, Fax

**For Immediate Release
December 7, 2012**

Contacts:

Kati Cornell
Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office
(212) 815-0525

Paul J. Browne
New York Police Department
(646) 610-6700

Eight drug traffickers arrested in Canarsie, Brooklyn: Illegal narcotics, prescription drugs and firearm sold

BRIDGET G. BRENNAN, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, and RAYMOND W. KELLY, New York City Police Commissioner, announced today the arrests of eight drug traffickers who sold illegal narcotics and prescription drugs in Canarsie, Brooklyn. Sales took place in and around a tire shop at East 108th Street and Stanley Avenue, inside several nearby apartments and in lobbies of buildings within the Breukelen Houses, a New York City Housing Authority complex. One defendant is also charged with selling a firearm. The Kings County District Attorney's Office also assisted in the investigation and prosecutions.

The NYPD's Brooklyn South Narcotics Division launched the undercover investigation in April 2012 in response to community complaints about an open-air drug market in the area, where hand-to-hand pill sales could be seen taking place in broad daylight. During the course of the probe, the defendants made 45 sales of cocaine, heroin and prescription drugs, including approximately 1,000 pills of Percocet and Vicodin, for a total of approximately \$32,000.

Yesterday afternoon, detectives conducted searches of the tire shop and several apartments, including two apartments in the Breukelen Houses. Police seized 300 grams of cocaine with a street value of approximately \$20,000, as well as quantities of heroin and marijuana, and over \$5,000 cash. In addition to the eight drug traffickers charged in drug sales from the undercover investigation, police arrested six more defendants on drug possession charges stemming from the searches, for a total of 14 arrest.

Five defendants are charged in individual indictments and are expected to be arraigned before Judge Robert Stolz in Part 22, 111 Centre Street, beginning this afternoon. The remaining nine defendants are charged in criminal complaints and will be arraigned in Criminal Court in Manhattan at 100 Centre Street.

Multiple sales in the case took place in the tire shop, Pito's Flat Fix, at 249 Stanley Avenue. One defendant, THOMAS VENETAR, illegally sold prescriptions drugs from behind the counter of the shop and also appeared to store drugs there. In one sale on July 27, the shop's owner HENRY CACERES could be seen handing Percocet pills to VENETAR, who then sold the pills to the undercover officer. Additionally, VENETAR, and another defendant, BRUCE ANDERSON, sold prescription drugs and cocaine in front of the shop and in a parking lot beside it on more than a dozen occasions.

VENETAR and ANDERSON are charged with multiple counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in two Special Narcotics indictments. CACERES, of Uniondale, NY, was also arrested yesterday in the vicinity

of the tire shop. A Special Narcotics criminal complaint charges him with acting in concert with VENETAR. CACERES is also charged with falsifying business records in connection with the tire shop and will be prosecuted by the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office on this count.

Another defendant, LISANDRO LIZARDO, also faces acting in concert charges for assisting VENETAR in a sale of Vicodin at a dry cleaning business on October 20. LIZARDO is charged in a Special Narcotics criminal complaint.

The tire shop is located across the street from the Breukelen Houses, a NYCHA housing complex comprised of 30 buildings on East 103rd Street and Stanley, between Flatlands and Williams Avenues. Lobbies in two of the apartment buildings in the complex were the sites of multiple drug sales. The complex is home to over 4,000 residents.

Sales also took place in private apartments in the area. On Oct. 12, defendant ELADIO ROSARIO sold a .357 Magnum revolver from his home at 87 Louisiana Ave., along with a quantity of cocaine for a total of \$2,050. ROSARIO is also charged in an indictment with conducting several of the largest narcotics sales in the case. Between Sept. 20 and Nov. 21, ROSARIO made six sales of cocaine to an undercover officer ranging from \$2,500 to \$3,000 each. ROSARIO's son, JONATHAN ROSARIO, is charged in a criminal complaint for acting in concert with his father in two large sales of cocaine on October 19 and October 26.

The majority of the pill sales in the case were conducted by defendant RAFAEL CASTILLO and ANDERSON, who sold undercover officers Percocet and Vicodin, as well as cocaine. The largest sale pill sale was 148 Vicodin pills for \$740 on Aug. 16. CASTILLO is charged with multiple counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in an indictment.

INDICTED DEFENDANTS	CHARGES
Thomas Venetar 06/28/1962	CSCS 2 nd – 3 cts CSCS 3 rd – 5 cts CSCS 4 th – 1 cts
Bruce Anderson 06/21/1958 274 Stanley Ave., Apt. 3B	CSCS 2 nd – 5 cts CSCS 3 rd – 4 cts CSCS 4 th – 2 cts
Rafael Castillo 12/02/1976 254 Stanley Ave. Apt. 4B	CSCS 2 nd – 1 ct CSCS 3 rd – 9 cts
Eladio Rosario 02/11/1958 87 Louisiana Ave.	CSCS 1 st – 1 ct CSCS 2 nd – 7 cts Criminal Sale of a Firearm 3 rd – 1 ct
Rafael Montanez 08/15/1943 Rear of 765 Williams Ave., Apt. 4	CSCS 1 st – 1 ct CSCS 2 nd – 1 ct CSCS 3 rd – 1 ct

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