

# 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

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## **Contacts:**

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

## **Two Members of Violent Street Gang GS9 Convicted of Murder and Attempted Murder, Conspiracy, and Other Crimes**

Bridget G. Brennan, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, announced today that a jury has convicted RASHID DERISSANT and ALEX CRANDON for the February 2013 murder of a 19-year-old rival gang member in Brooklyn, and numerous acts of violence in New York City and Miami Beach. The conspiracy began with crack dealing in Brooklyn, spanned nearly two years, and was connected to the Crip gang known as "GS9."

After an eight week long trial and four days of deliberation, a Manhattan Supreme Court jury found DERISSANT, 24 and CRANDON, 22, guilty on charges of Conspiracy in the Second and Fourth Degrees, Murder in the Second Degree, multiple counts of Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, Assault in the First and Second Degrees, Attempted Assault in the First Degree, Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, and Criminal Use of a Firearm in the First Degree.

Manhattan Supreme Court Judge Abraham L. Clott presided over the trial and scheduled sentencing for May 17, 2016.

"As indicated by their verdict, the jurors in this trial heard evidence describing a cold blooded murder, wild gunplay and a terrifying disregard for the safety of innocent bystanders as the defendants tried to violently settle scores with rivals in New York City and beyond," said Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan. "When Rashid Derissant and Alex Crandon were armed, theirs was a neighborhood under siege. When they traveled to Miami Beach, they spread terror as they fired randomly at a nightclub. They took their New York City based grievances and rivalries to Miami, assuming that they could act with impunity there, claiming they were merely members of a music group. Their convictions on these crimes make our city a safer place."

As proven at trial, DERISSANT, aka "Rasha" aka "Jordan 23," and CRANDON, aka "A-Rod," were members of "GS9" or "G Stone Crips," a street crew based in East Flatbush Brooklyn, and conspired to engage in a pattern of gang-related violence between January 2013 and October 2014. Much of the violence detailed at trial stemmed from an ongoing dispute with members of the rival gang "Brooklyn's Most Wanted" or "BMW." The gang sold narcotics to make money, some of which went towards gun purchases.

As the violence escalated, members of GS9 sought to shoot members of rival crews, often discussing their efforts and plotting attacks in recorded phone conversations with incarcerated GS9 members. Retaliatory shootings took place in New York City and Miami, where the gang members recklessly shot into crowds of innocent bystanders.

Evidence presented at trial included testimony from law enforcement officers and experts, medical examiners, and eye-witnesses, as well as surveillance video, recorded phone conversations, social media postings, DNA and ballistics evidence, and 11 firearms seized during the course of the investigation.

DERISSANT and CRANDON were convicted on three Conspiracy charges in connection with their gang activity. Below are thumbnails of the most serious violent crimes detailed at trial.

#### *Murder of BMW Member, February 8, 2013*

Based on the evidence at trial, jurors convicted DERISSANT and CRANDON of Murder for the fatal shooting of Bryan Antoine, a 19-year-old member of the rival gang BMW, inside a bodega at 830 Clarkson Avenue in Brooklyn on February 8, 2013. The defendants were also convicted of Attempted Murder in connection with three other members of the BMW gang who also were present in the store, but escaped being shot. DERISSANT and CRANDON were also convicted of Criminal Possession of a Weapon for this incident.

Surveillance video, witness testimony and other evidence showed DERISSANT and CRANDON acted in concert as they stalked the four BMW members to the bodega where the murder would occur. DERISSANT fired shots into the store and was caught on security camera bursting through the door and then quickly fleeing. Meanwhile, CRANDON stood guard outside and took off down the street with DERISSANT.

#### *Innocent Bystander Shooting, July 12, 2014: 128 East 52nd Street, Brooklyn*

On July 12, 2014, DERISSANT and CRANDON fired bullets wildly across East 52nd Street in Brooklyn and struck a 22-year-old innocent bystander, Tameeka Conyers, in the neck outside 128 East 52nd Street in Brooklyn. The investigation revealed that a member of BMW, who was the intended target, had been standing near the victim outside 128 East 52nd Street. DERISSANT and CRANDON were caught on video running up the street and firing off multiple rounds. They circled back to a waiting vehicle when CRANDON's arm was hit by a stray bullet fired from DERISSANT's weapon.

DERISSANT and CRANDON were convicted of Attempted Murder, Assault, Attempted Assault, Reckless Endangerment, Criminal Possession of a Weapon, and Criminal Use of a Firearm in connection with this shooting. DERISSANT was also convicted of Assault for shooting CRANDON.

#### *Shots fired in South Beach, Miami*

GS9 members brought their gang-related dispute to Miami in October 2014. Evidence proved that members of the gang spotted a rival near the club Fat Tuesdays on Ocean Drive in South Beach on October 11, 2014. Evidence proved that DERISSANT fired shots into a crowd and through a window of the club. Video captured DERISSANT and CRANDON at the scene and the mayhem that ensued as the large crowd of people in front of the club ducked for cover. Fortunately none of the many innocent bystanders on that busy street were hit. DERISSANT was convicted of Attempted Assault, Reckless Endangerment and Criminal Possession of a Firearm for this shooting.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan thanks the jury for its service and commended Assistant District Attorneys Nigel Farinha, Susan Lanzatella and Thomas Wright for their work on the case. Special Narcotics Prosecutor Brennan also thanked the New York City Police Department's

(NYPD) Brooklyn South Violence Reduction Task Force, the Miami Beach Police Department and the Kings County District Attorney's Office.

**DERISSANT CHARGES**

**MAXIMUM PENALTIES**

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Conspiracy 2 <sup>nd</sup> (to commit Murder 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct	Max. 8 1/3 to 25 years
Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (to commit Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> ) – 1 ct	Max. 1 1/3 to 4 years
Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (to commit CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct	Max. 1 1/3 to 4 years
Murder 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 1 ct	Max. 25 years to life
Attempted Murder 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5 cts	Max. 25 years (on each count)
Reckless Endangerment 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 ct	Max. 2 1/3 to 7 years (on each count)
Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> – 1 ct	Max. 25 years
Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 1 ct	Max. 7 years
Attempted Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 ct	Max. 15 years (on each count)
CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 8 cts	Max. 15 years (on each count)
Criminal Use of a Firearm 1 <sup>st</sup> – 1 ct	Max. 25 years

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**CRANDON CHARGES**

**MAXIMUM PENALTIES**

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Conspiracy 2 <sup>nd</sup> (to commit Murder 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct	Max. 8 1/3 to 25 years
Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (to commit Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> ) – 1 ct	Max. 1 1/3 to 4 years
Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (to commit CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct	Max. 1 1/3 to 4 years
Murder 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 1 ct	Max. 25 years to life
Attempted Murder 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5 cts	Max. 25 years (on each count)
Reckless Endangerment 1 <sup>st</sup> – 1 ct	Max. 2 1/3 to 7 years
Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> – 1 ct	Max. 25 years
Attempted Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> – 1 ct	Max. 7 years
CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 6 cts	Max. 15 years (on each count)
Criminal Use of a Firearm 1 <sup>st</sup> – 1 ct	Max. 25 years

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