



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

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**Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 27, 2010**

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**SEVENTY POUNDS OF COCAINE AND NINE FIREARMS SEIZED FROM  
STASH HOUSES IN BROOKLYN AND QUEENS: FOUR ARRESTED**

New York City Special Narcotics Prosecutor BRIDGET G. BRENNAN and New York City Police Commissioner RAYMOND W. KELLY announced today the arrests of three members of a cocaine trafficking ring and one drug customer. A search of two stash houses used by the organization on Monday, April 26, yielded a total of more than 70 pounds of cocaine with a street value of up to \$10 million and nine firearms, including three assault weapons.

On Monday, detectives with the NYPD's Manhattan North Narcotics Bureau observed one member of the organization sell 25 grams of cocaine to a customer at approximately 3 p.m. in front of 1738 Greene Ave. in Ridgewood, Queens. Pursuant to a search warrant, officers searched a basement apartment at that address a short time later and found 33 pounds of cocaine inside a suitcase and more than six pounds of cocaine in a washing machine. Drug paraphernalia, including scales and equipment for packaging, was also found in the apartment and officers retrieved a loaded handgun from a kitchen cabinet.

Further investigation led detectives to a second stash house in a second-floor apartment at 322 Weirfield St. in Bushwick, Brooklyn, where they uncovered drugs and a

small arsenal of guns hidden inside a plant stand and a pair of speakers. The plant stand had been fitted with an electrically-operated trap with more than 30 pounds of cocaine inside. One of the speakers contained a tote-bag stuffed with seven weapons, including two Uzis, five handguns and two silencers. The second speaker was filled with numerous boxes of ammunition. An AK-47 had been hidden under a mattress and a bullet-proof vest was also in the apartment.

The head of the organization, CARLOS RIVERA, was arrested on Greene Avenue. Rivera was in possession of keys to both apartments and \$3,800 in cash. His right-hand man, RAY AUGIRRE, was apprehended inside the Queens apartment, while a third member of the organization, GABRIEL VALDERRAMA, and a buyer, PEDRO SANTANA, were on a nearby street.

<b>DEFENDANTS</b>	<b>CHARGES</b>
<p><b>Carlos Rivera</b> 1/4/72 133-27 Boss St., Queens, NY</p>	<p>CPCS 1 – 2 cts CPCS 3 – 2 cts CPW 2 – 3 cts (includes 1 ct of possession of 5 or more firearms) CPW 3 – 3 cts (possession of assault weapons)</p>
<p><b>Ray Augirre</b> 1/25/75 1738 Greene Ave., Queens, NY</p>	<p>CPCS 1 – 1 ct CPCS 3 – 1 ct CPW 2 – 1 ct</p>
<p><b>Gabriel Valderrama</b> 4/17/78 111-59 133th St., Queens, NY</p>	<p>CPCS 1 – 1 ct CPCS 3 – 1 ct CPW 2 – 1 ct</p>
<p><b>Pedro Santana</b> 9/10/71 625A Westwood Ave., Staten Island, NY</p>	<p>CPCS 3 (1 ct)</p>

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