



**Office of the
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for the City of New York**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2010

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**WILLIAMSBURG HEROIN TRAFFICKING RING DISMANTLED IN
"OPERATION KING ME": SEVEN CHARGED**

New York City Special Narcotics Prosecutor BRIDGET G. BRENNAN and New York City Police Commissioner RAYMOND W. KELLY announced today the indictment and arrests of seven members of a brazen drug trafficking ring that cornered the heroin market in a section of North Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

The defendants peddled heroin and crack in bodegas, apartments, lobbies and on street corners in the vicinity of the Cooper Park Houses, a New York City Housing Authority Development, and catered to customers from surrounding neighborhoods.

Charges in 6 new indictments stem from more than 20 sales to undercover officers with the NYPD's Brooklyn North Narcotics Bureau, which conducted the 4-month investigation along with the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office. In launching the investigation, police responded to numerous community complaints about narcotics trafficking activity. All of the undercover drug transactions took place within 1,000 feet of the Carrig Montessori School, a preschool on Maspeth Avenue.

Notorious for selling narcotics in open view, members of the ring appeared in Google Earth photographs that depict one of their regular drug spots in front of a bodega at the intersection of Jackson Street and Kingsland Avenue. This bodega and another across the street were used by the ring as meeting places to conduct sales with heroin customers.

Surveillance showed the defendants stashed heroin behind a metal sign on one storefront by stuffing the product inside a magnetic lock-box that was then secured out of view. In some instances, undercover officers were led inside the stores before being handed the drugs. Undercover officers also purchased untaxed cigarettes from bodega employees.

Heroin sold by the ring was packaged in glassine envelopes and stamped with a variety of brands, including “Fed Ex,” “KFC,” “Powerful Impact” and the logo for “Monster” energy drink. A glassine typically sold for \$10.

Newly unsealed indictments charge six defendants with multiple counts of criminal sale of a controlled substance in or near school grounds and criminal sale of a controlled substance in the third degree. These defendants are scheduled to be arraigned in Manhattan Supreme Court, Part 23, this afternoon. A seventh defendant arrested this morning will be charged in a criminal complaint and arraigned in Manhattan Criminal Court.

In a separate case stemming from the drug investigation, NYPD officers arrested five bodega employees on felony charges for the sale and possession of untaxed cigarettes. The two bodegas, located at 243 Jackson St. and 29 Kingsland Ave., were temporarily shuttered today and the shops’ owners are expected to face additional nuisance abatement proceedings.

The Kings County District Attorney’s Office is working in coordination with the Special Narcotics Prosecutor and the NYPD on drug issues in the area and community outreach efforts.

INDICTED DEFENDANTS	CHARGES
Shaundell Dade 7/15/1978 20 Debevoise Ave., apt. 1C	CSCS in or near school grounds – 1 ct. CSCS 3 rd – 1 ct.
Namel Lovelace 6/11/1986 295 Jackson St., apt. 3A	CSCS in or near school grounds – 5 cts. CSCS 3 rd – 5 cts.
Jonathan Paulino 11/15/1989 60 Kingsland St., apt. 3C	CSCS in or near school grounds – 6 cts. CSCS 3 rd – 6 cts.
Juan Paulino 11/4/1992 60 Kingsland St., apt. 3C	CSCS in or near school grounds – 1 ct. CSCS 3 rd – 1 ct.

Jamel Pringle 2/11/1988 61 Thatford St.	CSCS in or near school grounds – 4 cts. CSCS 3 rd – 4 cts.
Rakwan Williams 4/22/1991 295 Jackson St.	CSCS in or near school grounds – 5 cts. CSCS 3 rd – 5 cts.

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