

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

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## **17 members of Bronx gang indicted in connection with violent turf battle: 10 firearms seized**

BRIDGET G. BRENNAN, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, New York City Police Commissioner RAYMOND W. KELLY and Bronx District Attorney ROBERT T. JOHNSON announced today the indictment of 17 members of a violent drug dealing gang, known as "Dub City," that has been engaged in a violent turf battle with two rival groups. The feud was triggered by the shooting death of a Dub City member in April 2011. Since that time there have been 14 retaliatory shootings, which are included in the indictment as part of four conspiracy charges, along with three assaults, numerous robberies and drug and gun sales.

The group made extensive use of social media, such as Facebook and YouTube, and communicated with one another about their crimes in thousands of text messages. In addition to the conspiracy charges, members of Dub City also face 31 substantive charges for weapon sales and possession and 5 substantive charges for selling and possessing narcotics. Of the 17 indicted defendants, 11 are scheduled to be arraigned today.

During the 16-month investigation police made a total of 20 arrests and seized 10 guns. Yesterday officers with the NYPD's 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct and the Field Intelligence Sergeant conducted 10 court authorized searches and arrested 10 individuals, including eight members of the Dub City gang. Police seized a firearm, heroin, crack-cocaine, drug paraphernalia and ammunition during the searches. Another nine guns were seized during the investigation.

Seven of the 20 defendants are currently being prosecuted by the Bronx District Attorney's Office and two juveniles face charges in Bronx Family Court.

The criminal street gang Dub City operates in the area between East 175th Street and East 177th Street from Walton Avenue to Jerome Avenue in the Bronx. Three of the group's top leaders, JAHMEEK ELLIOT, BRUCE SILVA and BAHEEM TEICHERA and were among those arrested yesterday. A building at 1895 Walton Avenue where TEICHERA, resides served as a central gang hang out and drug trafficking location. The indictment charges that members of Dub City maintained dominance over their geographic area by participating in a course of violent criminal conduct, including

shootings, assaults and firearm sales. The gang sold narcotics and committed robberies in order to make money to purchase firearms, jewelry and other goods.

During the investigation, members of Dub City engaged in violent confrontations with two rival street gangs in the vicinity of their neighborhood. Much of the violence stemmed from the shooting death of Dub City member Dontae Murray, aka "Tay," in April 2011. Dub City gang members believed that Murray was killed by a member of a gang known as "280," which stakes claim to the area between East 167<sup>th</sup> Street and East 170<sup>th</sup> Street from Morris Avenue to Clay Avenue. Dub City has also been feuding with another group called "WTG," which operates in the vicinity of East 170<sup>th</sup> Street and East 174<sup>th</sup> Street from Grand Concourse to Jerome Avenue.

Shootings, gun and drug sales, robberies and other crimes were the subject of thousands of communications between gang members, who used Facebook, YouTube and text messages to coordinate with one another, broadcast threats and incite violence. Text messages and recorded phone conversations show the Dub City members used a distinctive system of code words to communicate with one another. Many of the text message communications revolved around firearms, referred to as "grips," "slammers" and "jackies." "Situation," "jacking" and "clapping" meant shootings.

For example, during a period of heightened violence in March 2012, Dub City member MICHAEL BUSGITH sent SILVA a text message to warn him that there was about to be a confrontation with a rival gang on the block, prompting SILVA to ask BUSGITH if he had a firearm. "U grippy," SILVA asked, to which BUSGITH responded that he had just bought a weapon and was eager to use it. "I just cop dis slammer and dyin to use it."

In other coded language, the phrases "come up" or "bum up" referred to committing robberies and "yankee" meant narcotics. Members of Dub City also used various phrases used to refer to their gang, including "Dub City for Life," "DC4L" and "Dub or Die." Other phrases referred to Dub City members' relationship with their rivals, such as "280 killer" or "280K" for short.

Communal firearms were stored in various gang members' homes and kept readily available for retaliatory shootings. For example, on June 10, 2012, defendant DRAMEL ELLIOT received a text message from another Dub City member who expressed an urgent need for a gun. "Were grip?" the message said. "I need it asap." On the following day, June 11, at East 170<sup>th</sup> Street and Teller Avenue, a member of the 280 gang was shot in the back.

Subsequently, on June 12, SILVA posted or had posted a message on Facebook that said, "BanG BanG!!!" When a Dub City member, ISAIAH ELLIOT, aka "Dread," was shot in the arm just a few days later, on June 16, SILVA's posted or had posted to Facebook a statement that said, "My bro dread great!!! Aint nothing we can't handle u herddd!!!"

A similar flurry of text messages about gun locations proceeded a July 1 shooting of a 280 gang member. DRAMEL ELLIOTT warned his brother JAHMEEK ELLIOT that a shooting with a rival gang was about to happen, stating in a text message, "B on point on the strip" and "Jackie tag situa." That same day, the 280 gang member was shot in the face in the vicinity of Jerome Avenue and Shakespeare Avenue.

Soon afterwards, SILVA told TEICHERA in a phone call that he was involved in a "hot" situation, stating, "I don't want to be hot but the situation situated, feel me." On July 3, SILVA posted or had posted a series of statements on Facebook, including, "Last time I check the charts Dub City up!!!!" and "...it's dub hii or duck low!!" Another message referenced deceased Dub City member Dontae Murray, aka "Tay," stating, "I no my bro Tay smiling at me lmaoo miss that Kat!!!"

Gang members actively recruited minors to assist in hiding weapons. In a text message exchange on March 10, 2012, gang member DRAMEL ELLIOT assured a minor female member of WTG under the age of 16 that she was not just a "groupie" of Dub City but that she was in fact "jackin the hood right." Less than three weeks later, this minor was arrested in possession of a firearm.

On May 18, 2012, SILVA directed another minor to fire shots into an apartment inhabited by WTG members at 1555 Grand Concourse, and then to carry the firearm away from the scene of the shooting. The minor was arrested that same day in possession of a loaded .22 caliber firearm.

Assaults were not limited to shootings. Members of Dub City carried out at least two slashings and a brutal baseball bat beating. In one case, NYPD detectives obtained surveillance video from a bodega that captured images of two Dub City members, SILVA and WYSE AGBLEVOR, slashing a rival on March 18, 2012. The Dub City members ambushed the victim outside the bodega at 1420 Clay Avenue and used a razor blade to cut his face and arm.

The 35-count indictment unsealed today charges the defendants with Conspiracy, Assault, Menacing, Reckless Endangerment, Criminal Sale of a Firearm, Criminal Possession of a Weapon, Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance.

INDICTED DEFENDANTS	CHARGES
JAHMEEK ELLIOT aka "Jah" 12/3/87 1889 Sedgwick Avenue	Conspiracy 3rd (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> with a juvenile) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> /Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – 1 ct
DRAMEL ELLIOT aka "Fats" aka "Essy" 2/13/92 1889 Sedgwick Avenue	Conspiracy 3rd (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> with a juvenile) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> /Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – 1 ct
ISAIAH ELLIOT aka "Dred" aka "Dread" 1889 Sedgwick Avenue	Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> /Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – 1 ct
HASHEEM SAMUEL aka "Habbi" 7/6/94 1704 Morris Avenue	Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> /Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – 1 ct CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 1 ct
BRUCE SILVA aka "Brucie" aka "Brucie Dod" 12/28/95 2800 Parkview Terrace	Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> /Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – 1 ct Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 1 ct Assault 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 1 ct Menacing 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 1 ct Menacing 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 1 ct CPW 4 <sup>th</sup> – 1 ct Criminal Purchase of a Weapon – 1 ct
SHADELL MCBRIDE aka "Delli" 1/18/95 1920 Walton Avenue	Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> /Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – 1 ct CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 1 ct CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 1 ct CPW 4 <sup>th</sup> – 1 ct
BAHEEM TEICHERA aka "Bah" 5/27/1991 1895 Walton Avenue	Conspiracy 3rd (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> with a juvenile) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> /Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – 1 ct
MICHAEL BUSGITH aka "Billy Tyson" 8/23/94 1769 Eastburn Avenue	Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> /Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – 1 ct Criminal Sale of a Firearm 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 3 cts Criminal Purchase of a Firearm – 1 ct

TYSON SMITH aka "Tango" 6/29/95 1985 Davidson Avenue	Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> /Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – 1 ct CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 2 cts CPW 4 <sup>th</sup> – 2 cts
PAUL SAMUELS aka "Banks" 11/22/91 60 East 177th Street	Conspiracy 3 <sup>rd</sup> (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> with a juvenile) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> /Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – 1 ct
WYSE AGBLEVOR aka "Mulla" 9/13/93 1853 Harrison Avenue	Conspiracy 3 <sup>rd</sup> (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> with a juvenile)) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> /Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPW 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) – 1 ct Conspiracy 4 <sup>th</sup> (CPCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> /CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) – 1 ct Assault 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 1 ct Assault 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 1 ct Menacing 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 1 ct Menacing 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 1 ct CPW 4 <sup>th</sup> – 1 ct

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