

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

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14 Charged in Drug Trafficking at Brooklyn's Farragut Houses: Over 100 sales of narcotics, 3 firearms seized

BRIDGET G. BRENNAN, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, and WILLIAM J. BRATTON, New York City Police Commissioner, today announced charges against 14 drug traffickers following an investigation that involved over 100 sales of crack cocaine and heroin to undercover officers at the Farragut Houses, a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Development located in the Vinegar Hill section of Brooklyn.

The long-term investigation by the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) Narcotics Borough Brooklyn North and the 84th Precinct was sparked by community complaints and incidents of gang-related violence within the Farragut Houses. Since March 2014, undercover NYPD officers have made over 100 purchases of crack cocaine, heroin and other drugs from members of loosely connected trafficking groups. The Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor filed charges against 14 defendants who were arrested yesterday and this morning, including seven charged in indictments and seven charged in criminal complaints.

Police also conducted more than a dozen court authorized searches yesterday and seized three firearms, as well as quantities of crack cocaine, heroin and marijuana, and drug paraphernalia. Beyond the 14 individuals arrested on drug charges, the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office is prosecuting a number of other individuals, including four charged in connection with the firearms.

Within the Farragut Houses, drug trafficking groups frequently rotated locations where they stored narcotics in order to evade police detection. Investigators learned the groups had seized control of multiple apartments, including vacant apartments, within the Farragut Houses for use as stash locations and for meeting customers.

The defendants conducted drug sales in the lobbies of residential buildings in the Farragut Houses, in the vicinity of a playground, and inside nearby businesses, including a Chinese restaurant and a deli on York Street.

Yesterday, police searched four apartments that they suspected had been co-opted by the traffickers at 202 York Street and 233 Sands Street. During the police operation, several subjects became aware of law enforcement activity on the second floor of 233 Sands Street. JAMES SUGGS, an individual who investigators believe is a main supplier of crack cocaine for local drug dealers, attempted flight by jumping out of the window of Apt. 2E, only to land in front of a NYCHA police officer posted outside.

Police detained SUGGS and the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office secured a court authorized search warrant for Apt. 2E. Inside, officers found a quantity of crack cocaine, a scale and other materials and paraphernalia consistent with drug packaging operation. Two individuals who had been in the apartment with SUGGS were also arrested.

The defendant charged in the most sales in the case, JAQUAN MOORE, aka "Pressure", brazenly operated his drug business in the lobby of 111 Bridge Street, one of 10 buildings in the Farragut Houses complex. Customers would line up by the mail boxes in the lobby waiting to purchase crack cocaine from MOORE, who is charged in connection with 28 sales to undercover officers.

In addition to drug crimes, one defendant faces the charge of Petit Larceny for stealing \$1,000 from an undercover police officer. On June 3, 2014 defendant RASHAD JACKSON, aka "Shottie", aka "King", met with an undercover officer and received \$1,000 as payment for narcotics. However, JACKSON failed to return with the drugs. JACKSON faces charges in connection with a total of 12 narcotics-related transactions with undercover police officers.

Arraignments for the indicted defendants are expected to take place today in Manhattan Supreme Court before Judge James M. Burke, Part 22, 111 Centre Street, 9th floor. The defendants charged in criminal complaints are being arraigned in Manhattan Criminal Court.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan thanked the NYPD's Narcotics Borough Brooklyn North, the 84th Precinct and the Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson.

"Guns and drugs threaten the safety and security of too many of our city's public housing residents. The arrests we announce today shut down a major supplier of cocaine to gangs that traffic narcotics in Farragut Houses, and removed guns readily available to spawn violence and chaos in this community," Bridget G. Brennan said. "I thank the law enforcement officers and members of my staff who worked with dogged determination to improve life for the residents of Farragut Houses."

Police Commissioner William J. Bratton said, "Our commitment to the residents in public housing developments remains steadfast, as shown by the arrests and indictments of these alleged drug traffickers. I would like to thank Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan and her team, who worked closely with our investigators to quell the sale of drugs in Farragut Houses and near playgrounds where children play."

INDICTED DEFENDANTS	CHARGES
Jaquan Moore, aka "Pressure" 111 Bridge St., Apt. 2G Brooklyn, NY 12/25/1985	CSCS 3 rd – 27 cts Criminal Sale of Marijuana 4 th – 1 ct
Rashad Jackson, aka "Shottie", aka "King" 673 E. 52nd St. Brooklyn, NY 8/1/1994	CSCS 3 rd – 9 cts Criminal Sale of Marijuana 4 th – 2 cts Petit Larceny – 1 ct
Helena Jackson 111 Bridge St., Apt. 5G Brooklyn, NY 12/24/1965	CSCS 3 rd – 7 cts
Jasper Ferguson, aka "Jay" 177 Sands St., Apt. 8F Brooklyn, NY 2/10/1984	CSCS 3 rd – 4 cts Criminal Sale of Marijuana 4 th – 2 cts

Robert Brown, aka "Black Jesus" 756 Franklin Ave., Apt. 2A Brooklyn, NY 7/27/1989	CSCS 3 rd – 1 ct Criminal Sale of Marijuana 4 th – 7 cts
Jamel Williams, aka "Light" 6/24/1984	CSCS 3 rd – 3 cts
William Sherrod 234 Sands Street, Apt. 11F Brooklyn, NY 1/19/55	CSCS 3 rd – 3 cts
CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS	CHARGES
James Suggs, aka "Suge", aka "Slubs" 233 Sands St. Brooklyn, NY 8/5/1984	CPCS 3 rd – 2 cts Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2 nd – 2 cts
Alvin Sommers 233 Sands St., Apt. 2E Brooklyn, NY 1/4/1960	CPCS 3 rd – 2 cts CPCS 7 th – 1 ct Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2 nd – 3 cts
Joseph Hill 233 Sands St., Apt. 2E Brooklyn, NY 12/21/1957	CPCS 3 rd – 2 cts CPCS 7 th – 1 ct Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2 nd – 2 cts
Andre Butts 224 York St., Apt. 14H Brooklyn, NY 9/15/1994	CPCS 3 rd – 1 ct Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2 nd – 1 ct Unlawful Possession of Marijuana – 1 ct
Eulonda Davis 224 York St., Apt. 14H Brooklyn, NY 3/16/1996	CPCS 3 rd – 1 ct Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2 nd – 1 ct Unlawful Possession of Marijuana – 1 ct
Warren Cook 437 Wortman Ave. Brooklyn, NY 12/22/1959	CSCS 3 rd – 1 ct CPCS 7 th – 2 cts
Ernestine Johnson 177 Sands St., Apt. 8H Brooklyn, NY 10/10/1951	CSCS 3 rd – 2 cts

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