



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

Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor

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## Investigation Targets Open Drug Activity Inside Washington Square Park: Nine Charged in Sales to Undercover Officers

Nine individuals were arrested following an investigation into the sale of psychedelic psilocybin mushrooms and cocaine in the vicinity of Washington Square Park. The undercover investigation, conducted by the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) Narcotics Borough Manhattan South, began in July of 2023 in response to community complaints about open drug activity inside the busy public park, located in Manhattan's Greenwich Village.

Bridget G. Brennan, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, and New York City Police Commissioner Edward A. Caban announced the indictments and arrests, which occurred over the past six weeks.

**Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan** said, "The aim of this investigation, which was initiated in response to community complaints about rampant drug dealing in Washington Square Park, is to ensure that this public recreational space can be enjoyed in the way it's intended to be, and those who live in the surrounding area can feel comfortable in their neighborhood."

**NYPD Commissioner Edward A. Caban** said, "Enhancing the quality of life in every New York City neighborhood is integral to the NYPD's public safety mission, a fact understood by the regular visitors of Washington Square Park who refused to allow this beautiful open space to become an open-air drug market. These arrests represent the reclaiming of a historic area that has long provided New Yorkers a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city. I commend our NYPD investigators, and everyone involved at the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, for their dedication to this important case."

Arrests began on January 11, 2024, with the most recent arrest occurring on Saturday, February 17, 2024, followed by an arraignment in Manhattan Supreme Court yesterday. Seven individuals are charged in separate indictments filed by the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor. The remaining two individuals are charged in criminal complaints.

The investigation revealed that the majority of the defendants were associated with a loosely affiliated street crew operating in afternoon and evening shifts to sell psilocybin mushrooms, cocaine and crack cocaine. In total, the defendants made more than a dozen sales to undercover officers.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan thanked Manhattan District Attorney Alvin L. Bragg, Jr. and commended SNP's Trial Division and the NYPD's Narcotics Borough Manhattan South for their work on the investigation.

<b>Indicted Defendants</b>	<b>Charges</b>
Jordan Gill Brooklyn, NY Age: 26	CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 1 ct CSCS 5 <sup>th</sup> – 2 cts
Omalley Harris Brooklyn, NY Age: 25	CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 2 cts
Donald Mack Hempstead, NY Age: 33	CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 1 ct CSCS 5 <sup>th</sup> – 1 ct
Elisha Roger Queens, NY Age: 21	CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 2cts
Kimberly Scales New York, NY Age: 44	CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 1 ct
Nazzir Washington Bronx, NY Age:20	CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 2 cts
Victor Whaley Bronx, NY Age: 33	CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 1 ct

<b>Criminal Complaints</b>	<b>Charges</b>
Joshua Dunlap Bronx, NY Age: 39	CSCS 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 1 ct
James Cooney Bronx, NY Age: 21	CSCS 5 <sup>th</sup> – 1 ct

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