

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

Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor

80 Centre Street, Sixth Floor
New York, NY 10013
212-815-0400, Gen
212-815-0440, Fax

For Immediate Release
June 6, 2012

Contacts:

Kati Cornell
Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office
212-815-0525

Paul J. Browne
New York Police Department
(646) 610-6700

Twenty-three drug traffickers arrested at Douglass Houses in Manhattan's Upper West Side: Firearm seized

BRIDGET G. BRENNAN, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, and New York City Police Commissioner RAYMOND W. KELLY announced today the arrests of 23 drug traffickers who sold drugs in the Douglass Houses, a New York City Housing Authority complex located in Manhattan's Upper West Side. The charges follow a yearlong investigation that involved over 40 sales of crack-cocaine. Police also seized one firearm during the investigation.

The New York Police Department's Narcotics Borough Manhattan North launched the probe in response to community complaints about widespread drug dealing and violence, including shootings and robberies, at the area. Drug sales took place inside halls, stairwells, apartments and courtyards in the Douglass Houses, which is comprised of 17 buildings and houses over 4,500 residents.

Beginning early this morning, detectives arrested 22 of the defendants and conducted searches of six apartments in the housing complex pursuant to court authorized warrants. Nine of the defendants arrested today are charged in Special Narcotics indictments, which are set to be unsealed today. The other 13 defendants are charged in criminal complaints – 4 of these cases will be handled by Special Narcotics and 9 by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

An additional defendant, STEVEN SMITH, was arrested on May 17th and is charged in a Special Narcotics indictment. At the time of SMITH's arrest, police conducted a court authorized search of his apartment at 200 West 111th St., Apt. 6F. Upon entering the bedroom of the apartment, detectives saw SMITH crouching beside the bed and SMITH's five-month-old baby boy on top of the bed. SMITH initially refused to show his hands. Ultimately SMITH acquiesced and detectives seized a loaded .45 caliber gun that was hidden between the bed frame and mattress the child had been lying on.

Drugs were also recovered from this room. A large rock of crack was found on top of the nightstand, and drawers of the nightstand contained bullets and 23 ziplock bags of crack marked with gold skulls. Smaller rocks of crack, a razor blade and a pick were on the floor, and a small quantity of marijuana was on the dresser. Twenty cell phones were also seized.

A second child, the nine-year-old son of SMITH's girlfriend, was also present in the apartment. In addition to drug charges, SMITH faces charges of Endangering the Welfare of a Child and Unlawful Dealing with a Child.

During the long-term investigation at Douglass Houses, each of the 23 defendants sold crack and/or cocaine to undercover detectives between one and eight times, with a total of \$2,255 in drug sales in the case.

INDICTED DEFENDANTS	CHARGES
Burros, Elizabeth 4/26/1963 89 Luquer St., Brooklyn	CSCS 3 rd – 1 ct
Butler, Sunder– aka Star 4/13/1980 865 Columbus Ave., Apt. 7A	CSCS 3 rd – 6 cts
Campbell, Marcus 4/3/1994 870 Columbus Ave., Apt. 11A	CSCS 3 rd – 2 cts
Lewis, Tyrea – aka Butter 5/11/1976 860 Columbus Ave., Apt. 17B	CSCS 3 rd – 1 ct
Padilla, Felix – aka Flex 1/2/1954 870 Columbus Ave., Apt. 11H	CSCS 3 rd – 8 cts
Smith, Steven 7/20/1974 200 West 111 th St., Apt. 6F	CSCS 3 rd – 1 ct CPCS 3 rd – 2 cts Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2 nd – 2 cts Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3 rd – 1 ct Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2 nd – 2 cts Endangering the Welfare of a Child – 2 cts Unlawful Dealing with a Child 1 st – 2 cts Unlawful Possession of Marijuana – 1 ct
Steward, Herman – aka Herb 5/30/1958 868 Amsterdam Ave.	CSCS 3 rd – 7 cts
Torres, Hector – aka J 12/15/1955 855 Columbus Ave., Apt. 5E	CSCS 3 rd – 2 cts
Webster, Deneene 826 Columbus Ave., Apt. 10A	CSCS 3 rd – 2 cts
Williams, Michael – aka Mousey 2/6/1963 826 Columbus Ave., Apt. 17H	CSCS 3 rd – 4 cts

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