



ANTHONY G. BROWN, MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

PRESS RELEASE

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Media Contacts:

press@oag.state.md.us

410-576-7009

Attorney General Brown Announces Indictments of 15 Defendants from Two Drug Trafficking Organizations in Baltimore City for Trafficking Fentanyl and Cocaine and Firearms Offenses

BALTIMORE, MD (April 15, 2024) – Attorney General Anthony G. Brown today announced the indictments of 15 individuals from two separate drug trafficking organizations in Baltimore City for their roles in two separate criminal conspiracies responsible for the trafficking of large amounts of fentanyl and cocaine and firearm offenses.

“I will not tolerate criminals who overrun neighborhoods and bring in illegal drugs and deadly guns. Marylanders deserve safe and peaceful communities,” **said Attorney General Brown.** “These indictments demonstrate the successes we achieve when working together to take down crime. I’m proud of the collaborative effort with our law enforcement partners and the Mayor’s Office to protect our residents and hold criminals accountable for breaking the law.”

The investigations and takedowns of these two drug trafficking organizations are part of Baltimore City Mayor Brandon Scott’s Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS), in partnership with the Attorney General’s Organized Crime Unit and local, State, and federal law enforcement partners.

“Time and time again, the GVRS strategy is proving to be effective, thanks in large part to the collaboration and coordination with our partners – Attorney General Brown, Criminal Division Chief Katie Dorian, Baltimore Police, the DEA, Maryland State Police, the State’s Attorney’s Office,” **said Mayor Brandon M. Scott.** “Our focus is always to help people change their lives and provide them the support needed. But when these individuals refuse to put down the guns and cease their involvement in group violence, we will not hesitate to send a unified message they will be held accountable to the full extent of the law. That’s what these takedowns represent, and I am proud to continue this work with our partners.”

Longwood-North-Dukeland Investigation

In May 2023, the Attorney General’s Organized Crime Unit, Baltimore City Police Department’s (BPD) Group Violence Unit, and the DEA - Washington Division’s Baltimore District

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Office, began a joint investigation into the members and associates of a drug-trafficking organization operating in Northwest Baltimore. The organization's members referred to the area in which they conducted their criminal activity as "LND," short for Longwood-North-Dukeland, which are names of streets located in and around:

- 3100 block of West North Avenue
- 1800 block of North Rosedale Street
- 3100 block of Westwood Avenue,
- Intersection of West North Avenue and North Dukeland Street in Northwest Baltimore City.

The investigation utilized a variety of investigative methods, including undercover BPD detectives making controlled purchases of firearms and narcotics, including fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine.

The investigation culminated in the execution of multiple search warrants in January 2024, including one at the home of Micquan Leonard in Baltimore County. Leonard is alleged to be the gun supplier for the organization. A search of his home led to the recovery of 10 firearms and cocaine. The 10 firearms included two illegal assault rifles, two stolen firearms, and a ghost gun.

In total, the investigation led to the seizure of 14 firearms and large amounts of controlled dangerous substances (CDS), including 1.734 kilograms of fentanyl, and the indictments of 10 individuals.

Those indicted include:

Roland King, 38, of Baltimore, is charged in a 127-count indictment, including charges of conspiracy to distribute CDS, illegal possession of a regulated firearm with a disqualifying conviction, distribution of a large amount/volume dealer of fentanyl, and possession of a firearm with a nexus to a drug trafficking crime.

Micquan Leonard, 44, of Gwynn Oak, is charged in an 18-count indictment, including charges of illegal possession of a regulated firearm with a disqualifying conviction, possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and possession of a firearm with a nexus to a drug trafficking crime. Leonard is charged in Baltimore County.

Kedric Green, 27, of Baltimore, is charged in a 14-count indictment, including charges of illegal possession of a regulated firearm with a disqualifying conviction, possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, and possession of a firearm with a nexus to a drug trafficking crime.

Eris Smith, 59, of Baltimore, is charged in a 13-count indictment, including charges of distribution of a large amount of fentanyl/volume dealer and distribution of cocaine.

Darrell Halsey, 47, of Baltimore, is charged in an 11-count indictment, including charges of conspiracy to distribute CDS and distribution of cocaine.

Davon Gilmore, 41, of Baltimore, is charged in an 11-count indictment, including charges of conspiracy to distribute CDS, distribution of fentanyl, and distribution of heroin.

David Robinson, 30, of Baltimore, is charged in a 9-count indictment, including charges of illegal possession of a regulated firearm with a disqualifying conviction, possession with

intent to distribute cocaine and possession of a firearm with a nexus to a drug trafficking crime.

Deshawn Gray, 22, of Baltimore, is charged in a 2-count indictment, including charges of illegal possession of a rifle with a disqualifying conviction and possession of CDS administration equipment.

Arrest warrants have been issued for two outstanding defendants. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Keon Powell, 32, and Martina Staggers, 52, should contact the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office at (410) 396-7591.

"The actions of the members and associates of the "LND" Gang make it clear that fentanyl distribution is a violent crime, often associated with firearms, overdoses, and poisonings. Like Attorney General Anthony G. Brown mentioned, it is important to address this issue with a collaborative approach, involving federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, to stop and hold accountable these offenders and anyone facilitating their illicit activities. Today's indictments send a clear message that DEA we will not rest until we eliminate gang violence and stop the distribution of illicit drugs into Maryland's neighborhoods," **mentioned Jarod Forget**, Special Agent in Charge of the DEA Washington Division.

Morrell Park Investigation

The Morrell Park investigation was led by the Attorney General's Organized Crime Unit, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, the Group Violence Unit of the Baltimore City Police Department (BPD), and Maryland State Police (MSP) Strike Force Group 7 of the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Strike Force Initiative in Baltimore.

Over the course of several months, law enforcement built a case that focused on a drug trafficking organization operating in the Morrell Park area of Baltimore City, that was using the American Market convenience store as a central hub to distribute fentanyl and cocaine. Members of the conspiracy facilitated the sale of various narcotics to undercover officers, including fentanyl and cocaine. Detectives observed the organization distributing narcotics on a daily basis and discovered that some of its members were distributing large amounts of narcotics at a time for resale.

The investigation resulted in the seizure of four firearms, including a 9MM Intra-Tec Model Tec-DC-9 and two privately made firearms, commonly referred to as "ghost guns," one of which was equipped with a laser. Investigators also seized over 2,000 pills of fentanyl, 200 grams of cocaine, and \$6,307 in narcotics proceeds.

In total, five defendants were indicted for their roles in the conspiracy to traffic large amounts of fentanyl and cocaine:

Dustin Shrout, 24, of Baltimore City, acted as a large-scale distributor of narcotics, having access to hundreds of pills of fentanyl and cocaine at a time. He has been charged with conspiring to distribute fentanyl and cocaine, volume dealer, distribution of fentanyl, distribution of cocaine, use of a firearm in a drug trafficking crime, illegal possession of a regulated firearm, and related charges.

Tensia Smith, 24, of Baltimore City, lived with Shrout in their residence where they stored narcotics, a firearm, and narcotics proceeds. She also transported him to multiple narcotics transactions. She has been charged with conspiring to distribute fentanyl and cocaine, distribution of fentanyl, distribution of cocaine, use of a firearm in a drug trafficking crime, illegal possession of a regulated firearm, and related charges.

James Stewart, 26, of Baltimore County, also participated in narcotics deals with Shrout. He has been charged with conspiring to distribute fentanyl, distribution of fentanyl, and related charges.

Anton Williams, Jr., 20, of Baltimore City, received narcotics to sell from Shrout and has been charged with conspiring to distribute fentanyl and cocaine, use of a firearm in a drug trafficking crime, illegal possession of a regulated firearm by a minor, possession with the intent to distribute fentanyl, cocaine, and Adderall, and related charges.

Tarik Kelly, 23, of Baltimore City, also worked as a narcotics distributor and used his Baltimore City residence as a stash location for fentanyl, cocaine, firearms, and narcotics proceeds. He has been charged with conspiring to distribute fentanyl and cocaine, volume dealer, distribution of cocaine, possession with the intent to distribute fentanyl, use of a firearm in a drug trafficking crime, illegal possession of regulated firearms, and related charges.

“I am grateful for the BPD’s Group Violence Unit, the Attorney General’s Office, the State’s Attorney’s Office, the DEA, the Maryland State Police and our other law enforcement partners for their hard work and commitment to these investigations. I also thank the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement for their ongoing support and partnership around the Group Violence Reduction Strategy,” **said Police Commissioner Richard Worley**. “Criminal enterprises add to our nation’s overdose epidemic and do harm to Baltimore’s neighborhoods through drug trafficking and gun violence. Together with our partners, we continue to show these criminals that they will not be allowed to perpetuate this culture of violence. We will put these organizations out of business and improve the quality of life for all Baltimoreans.”

“The Maryland Department of State Police is proud to stand among our law enforcement partners in this joint effort to dismantle this dangerous drug trafficking operation and hold those responsible accountable,” **said Lieutenant Colonel Rosemary Chappell**, Chief of the Criminal Investigation Bureau. “This collaborative effort exemplifies the Department’s commitment to public safety and ensures that Maryland is a safe place to live, work, and visit.”

“I commend the collaborative efforts of law enforcement agencies in indicting these five defendants for the trafficking of fentanyl and cocaine alongside firearms offenses. This decisive action sends a clear message that Baltimore will not tolerate the proliferation of dangerous drugs and illicit activities,” **said State’s Attorney Ivan J. Bates**. “I want to thank my ASA Jeanne Canal and my Major Investigations Unit for their tireless work on this case, and I also extend my sincere gratitude to the Office of the Attorney General, Baltimore Police Department, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, and Maryland State Police for their dedication and continued partnership. We remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents and communities.”

In making today’s announcement, Attorney General Brown thanked his Criminal Division, including Organized Crime Unit Chief Paul Halliday; Deputy Criminal Division Chief Jared Albert; and Assistant Attorneys General Shannon Price, Megan Greene, Eric Sullivan, and

Kenneth Joy who are prosecuting these cases. Attorney General Brown also thanked Baltimore City Assistant State's Attorney Jeanne Canal, the Baltimore City Police Department's Group Violence Unit, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Maryland State Police for their work on this investigation. Attorney General Brown also thanked all the law enforcement agencies whose members comprise the OCDEFT Strike Force Group 7, including the Maryland Transportation Authority Police, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, and the Baltimore County Police Department. Attorney General Brown also thanked Baltimore City State's Attorney Ivan Bates and Baltimore County State's Attorney Scott Shellenberger for their offices' assistance in these investigations.

A criminal indictment is merely an accusation of wrongdoing, and all defendants are presumed innocent until the State proves the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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