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**U.S. CHARGES ALLEGED GANGSTER DISCIPLE RONDELL FREEMAN AND 15
OTHER ALLEGED GANGSTER DISCIPLES IN FEDERAL NARCOTICS
CONSPIRACY**

CHICAGO – Rondell Freeman, allegedly a longtime member of the Gangster Disciples street gang and the leader of a drug trafficking organization that operated in the Cabrini Green Housing developments at 714 Division and 1230 Burling buildings, was arrested today as a result of the efforts of a joint task force of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”), the Chicago Police Department (“CPD”), and the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”). Freeman allegedly headed up a high-volume narcotics distribution organization that controlled much of the crack cocaine, heroin, and marijuana sales in the Cabrini Green Homes public housing developments located at 714 W. Division Street, and later, 1230 N. Burling Avenue. According to the criminal complaint, Freeman’s drug trafficking organization operated 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and brought in a minimum of \$8500 per day. Along with Freeman, law enforcement arrested additional alleged members of Freeman’s Gangster Disciples drug trafficking organization. All of the arrested individuals are charged with a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, heroin and marijuana.

The arrests follow a two-year joint investigation that involved extensive video, audio, and visual surveillance of the organization as it prepared and packaged drugs for resale in a condominium unit located on Sheridan Road in Chicago; numerous wiretapped telephone calls; both delayed notification and standard search warrants; cooperating sources who made controlled purchases of crack cocaine from alleged members of the Freeman organization; and other investigative measures. The investigation ended this morning when ATF and IRS agents together with police began arresting 16 targets of the investigation.

Currently, 16 defendants, including Freeman, are charged with conspiracy to possess and distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine in a federal criminal complaint that was unsealed today, announced Gary Shapiro, First Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; Andrew L. Traver, Special Agent in Charge of the ATF Chicago Field Division; Christopher Pikelis, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the IRS Criminal Investigative Division, and Interim Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department, Dana Starks. The investigation was conducted through the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). A U.S. Justice Department Public Housing Safety Initiative grant was used to finance portions of the investigation.

ATF Special Agent in Charge Traver said, “Now that Rondell Freeman and his co-conspirators have been apprehended and removed, the law-abiding residents of Cabrini-Green can go about their lives without the scourge of his drug trafficking organization operating all around them.” Additionally, IRS Assistant Special Agent in Charge Pikelis remarked, “The mission of IRS Criminal Investigation in narcotics law enforcement mirrors the mission and direction of our ongoing counter-drug and gang commitment. That is, to dismantle and/or disrupt the highest level narcotics

trafficking and narcotics money laundering organizations by targeting the profit and financial gains of narcotics traffickers which comprise a significant portion of the untaxed underground economy.”

"Violent street gang members have been disrupted and can no longer harm innocent victims or communities by the threat of illegal drugs and dangerous firearms," said Interim Police Superintendent Dana Starks. "When we coordinate and share information with our fellow law enforcement partners, we maximize our resources targeting individual gang members, drug houses and gang territories," he added.

Rondell Freeman, also known as “Fall,” and “Nightfall,” 31, of Chicago; and other charged defendants are in custody. The defendants are scheduled to begin appearing 2:00 p.m. today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Sidney I. Schenkier.

According to the complaint, Rondell Freeman and others prepared and packaged crack cocaine, heroin, and marijuana at a one-bedroom condominium unit in the Sheridan Shores Condominium Complex (the “Target Unit”) located at 5740 N. Sheridan Road. Pursuant to court order, agents intercepted and videotaped the conversations of several of the named defendants in the Target Unit purchasing a firearm, cooking powder cocaine into crack, and counting money obtained following the sale of narcotics, among other things, according to the affidavit unsealed today. During a court-authorized search of the Target Unit, agents seized crack cocaine and heroin, as well as other drug paraphernalia. Agents and officers seized several guns, narcotics and records of drug-trafficking activity during the course of the investigation.

The complaint affidavit also states that Rondell Freeman and others were recorded by law enforcement agents during wiretapped phone calls discussing Freeman’s drug trafficking organization. The individuals who were recorded discussed the sale of narcotics and the use of

violence against individuals selling drugs at 1230 N. Burling, among other topics, according to the affidavit.

The charges allege that Freeman's co-defendants served various roles in assisting him operate the drug conspiracy. For example, alleged co-conspirators supplied him with drugs, helped prepare and package drugs, sold drugs, collected and counted money obtained following the sale of drugs, and served as lookouts for police. Specifically, defendant Terrence Sewell, aka "T Money", allegedly supplied some of the drugs that the organization sold in the 1230 Burling building. The drugs distributed by the Freeman drug trafficking organization were allegedly typically prepared and packaged by Freeman and others, including Brian Wilbourn, aka "Stay High" and "3," Robert Freeman, aka "G Rob" and "Bob," and Senecca Williams, aka "Boo Boo."

The drugs were then allegedly sold at the 1230 Burling building by Reginald Booker, aka "Bob," Syble McClutchey, aka "Silver," Daniel Hill, aka "Little Burling" and "Little B," Lance Olden, aka "LA," Deshawn Simmons, aka "Duke," Marcell Thomas, aka "Lil Cell" and "Cell," Darnell Williams, aka "Don D," and Demarquius Williams, aka "Buck" and "Marco."

Additionally, Hill, Wilbourn, Adam Sanders, aka "Redman," and Lonnie Mack, aka "L Dub," "Dub," and "4," allegedly supervised Freeman's drug trafficking organization's sellers. Booker and McClutchey also allegedly collected money currency derived from the sale of narcotics from Freeman's drug sellers. Robert Freeman allegedly assisted in supplying the Freeman drug trafficking organization with firearms. Clint Linzy allegedly served as a lookout for Freeman's drug trafficking organization.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Rachel Cannon and Kruti Trivedi.

If convicted, each defendant faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison, a maximum possible sentence of life imprisonment without parole, and a maximum possible fine of \$4 million. The Court, however, would determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed.

The public is reminded that a complaint contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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