

NEWS



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NINE INDICTED IN LOUISIANA ON FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA - Jim Letten, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana; David Harper, Special Agent In Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); James Bernazzani, Special Agent In Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); and Warren Riley, Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD), announced today that on November 3, 2006, a Federal Grand Jury sitting in New Orleans, Louisiana, returned a 31-count superseding indictment under case number 06-269 "I" charging **JEREME THOMAS**, a/k/a Skinny, **TRAVIS RANDOLPH**, **MICHAEL RANDOLPH**, a/k/a Pie, **RONNELL VALLERY**, a/k/a Pappa, **KENTRON MATTHIEU**, a/k/a Tron, **JEREMIAH THOMAS**, a/k/a Fat, **LEROY CARTER** a/k/a Juice, **EDDIE CHANEY**, and **TONEY**

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JONES, a/k/a Boochie, with conspiracy to distribute cocaine base (crack), cocaine hydrochloride, heroin, and marijuana; conspiracy to use firearms in furtherance of the drug trafficking activity; using a house located at 1910 Second Street as a “crack house”; and various other violations of federal narcotics and firearms laws.

This indictment was returned, under seal, on Friday November 3, 2006. This morning and throughout the day, ATF Special Agents arrested seven members of this organization.

LEROY CARTER a/k/a Juice and **TONEY JONES**, a/k/a Boochie have not been arrested yet.

The members of this conspiracy operated in a part of New Orleans called “Central City” which has been a “hot spot” for drug, gun, and violent crime activity. These individuals allegedly concentrated their narcotics trafficking activities in a geographic area located between Washington Avenue and Philip Street and between Carondelet Street and Loyola Avenue in New Orleans.

According to the allegations based upon evidence cited in the indictment and search warrant affidavits which have been filed in this case, the defendants have been selling drugs together and using firearms for several years in this geographic area as an “open air drug market.” They have allegedly openly sold drugs and used firearms on the streets in this area and from several different houses in the area, including 1910 Second Street.

It is alleged that on two separate occasions, police captured on video members of this conspiracy firing and attempting to fire weapons in front of 1910 Second Street. Specifically, on March 9, 2006, **MICHAEL** and **TRAVIS RANDOLPH** were captured on video removing an assault weapon from 1910 Second Street and attempting to fire at an individual who was fleeing the area in a car, thereafter returning the weapon to the house. It is further alleged that on June 1, 2006, **JEREME THOMAS**, was captured firing a handgun at a passing car while immediately in front of the 1910 Second Street house.

Also during the course of this investigation, the FBI Gang Task Force was allegedly able to make two controlled purchases of crack cocaine from **LEROY CARTER**, a/k/a Juice, on

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September 8 and September 11, 2006. On both occasions, **CARTER** allegedly used 1910 Second Street as his place to store and retrieve the drugs.

All of the defendants in this case have prior felony drug convictions except for **LEROY CARTER**, a/k/a Juice.

Based on their prior records, if convicted of the drug conspiracy, **MICHAEL RANDOLPH, RONNELL VALLERY, KENTRON MATTHIEU, TONEY JONES,** and **JEREMIAH THOMAS** face mandatory life sentences.

TRAVIS RANDOLPH, JEREME THOMAS, and **EDDIE CHANEY** will all face a mandatory minimum sentence of twenty (20) years and a maximum of life in prison.

LEROY CARTER will face a minimum sentence of ten (10) years and a maximum of life in prison.

Counts 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 25, 30, and 31 are all drug distribution violations, each carrying a sentence up to twenty (20) years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1,000,000.00 fine, and at least three (3) years of supervised release.

Counts 13, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, and 29 are all gun violations, each carrying a sentence of up to ten (10) years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000.00, and three (3) years of supervised release.

Counts 12, 18, 24, and 26 are also gun violations and carry a mandatory minimum sentence of five (5) years and a maximum of life in prison. Any sentence imposed as to either of these firearms violations must be served consecutive to any other sentence that the defendant may be sentenced to serve.

United States Attorney Jim Letten stated: "In the wake of this very important indictment charging these nine individuals with serious drug and violent firearms offense, I want to offer my gratitude and that of my entire office to the Special Agents of ATF and FBI, and the fine men and women of the New Orleans Police Officers who have worked diligently in an outstanding partnership over the past several months to bring this case to fruition. I also want to offer my

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thanks to the men and women of the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Clerk's Office and the New Orleans Police Officers assigned to Central Evidence and Property, who under extremely difficult circumstances, located and salvaged numerous critical pieces of evidence that were originally confiscated from some of the defendants prior to Hurricane Katrina. These pieces of evidence will now be useful in this case and will help to bring these defendants to justice."

Special Agent in Charge Harper also congratulated the case agents and all who assisted in this highly successful investigation. He further stated that ATF will continue to work closely with the New Orleans Police Department, FBI and other local area agencies to identify and dismantle these violent drug trafficking organizations in our community.

United States Attorney Jim Letten reminds the public that an indictment is merely an accusation and that all of the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

This investigation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, with the assistance of FBI Gang Task Force and the NOPD Sixth District. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Maurice E. Landrieu, Jr. and Duane Evans.

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