



# NEWS RELEASE

**Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes**  
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office  
401 Grand Street  
Paterson, NJ 07505  
(973) 881-4800

---

## **OPERATION FOURTH DOWN TACKLES VIOLENT BLOODS SET IN PATERSON**

---

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

JUNE 23, 2011

Today at the State Police Troop B Headquarters in Totowa, Attorney General Paula T. Dow, Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and New Jersey State Police Acting Superintendent of Investigation Major Matthew Wilson announced the stunning results of a nearly yearlong cooperative investigation into the drug distribution activities of a Paterson street gang. Arrests totaled more than 170 people, 29 of whom were taken into custody during early morning sweeps today in Paterson.

Those arrested included members of the Fruit Town Brims, a set of the Bloods street gang that operated out of the Fourth Ward in Paterson. A large, multi-agency task force spread across the city early this morning to execute 9 search warrants and 24 arrest warrants. So far, 22 of the 24 sought on warrants have been captured. In addition to the arrests, detectives prior to today have seized 12 guns, and more than 4,000 bags of heroin, crack, marijuana and other drugs. More drugs and cash were confiscated this morning.

Residents and elected officials in the city had raised concerns over rampant drug distribution and violence in the streets of the Fourth Ward. The New Jersey State Police Street Gang Unit worked in conjunction with the Regional Operations Intelligence Center's analysts to identify the Fruit Town Brims as the primary drug distribution network in the area. The New Jersey State Police initiated this investigation in or about August 2010 and partnered with the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, the Paterson Police Department and the Passaic County Sheriff's Department to identify and arrest drug dealers and buyers.

Detectives identified Tahir Canady, 25 of Paterson, Alshaquen Nero, 25 of Paterson, and Shabli Williams, 29 of Paterson, as members of the Fruit Town Brims and leaders of the narcotics distribution network. All three men were arrested on warrants this morning. Canady and Nero were charged with being the Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network, and other drug and weapons charges. Williams was charged with being the Leader of Narcotics Trafficking Network and other related charges. All three will be lodged in the Passaic County Jail on \$250,000.00 bail.

On two occasions during the investigation, detectives on surveillance observed men fire weapons at unknown subjects. On both occasions the men were arrested and the weapons were recovered. These men, Tyrell Floyd, 19 of Paterson, and Asmar Williams, 19 of Paterson were both charged with Unlawful Possession of a Weapon and related charges.

“Once again, through multi-agency partnerships, intelligence sharing and strategic targeting, New Jersey’s law enforcement delivered a blow to the criminal gangs and drug dealers that have been creating havoc in our cities,” said Attorney General Dow. “The arrests we have made during this targeted operation send a message to the individuals who are bringing drugs and guns into our communities. This conduct will receive swift and certain consequences.”

“The City of Paterson is safer today because of the hard work and dedication of the multiple law enforcement agencies involved in this 11-month investigation,” said Prosecutor Valdes. “From the onset, this investigation was designed to identify, arrest and prosecute individuals and gangs responsible for violent crime and narcotics trafficking in Paterson. We are confident this large number of arrests will have a significant impact on reducing crime in our city today, and in the future.”

“The people targets in Operation Fourth Down were identified as prime movers in Paterson crime and drug distribution,” said Major Matthew Wilson, Deputy Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police. “By identifying them through intelligence-led policing, and taking them out of play through cooperative law enforcement efforts, we have made a very real difference in the quality of life for the citizens in this area.”

In order to get a view of the overall crime patterns of Paterson’s Fourth Ward, State Police utilized the NJSP Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC) P.O.P. Analysis Initiative. Under the authority of the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office the NJ P.O.P. Initiative examines the criminal shooting environment in New Jersey and identifies significant problem areas, provides

temporal and geo-spatial analysis, delineates gang related shootings, and draws associations between weapons recovered, recidivist offenders, and shooting motivations across jurisdictional boundaries. This initiative information is necessary for combating violent crime.

In addition to the NJ P.O.P. initiative, the New Jersey State Police is also an active partner in the Violent Enterprise Source Targeting (VEST) Program. The VEST program is an innovative multi-agency collaborative effort to disrupt and dismantle violent criminal organizations in New Jersey. This program utilizes the resources of local, county, state and federal agencies to share intelligence, target the most violent offenders, conduct sustained enforcement operations, and coordinated prosecutions. During this investigation, the Fourth Ward was identified as a VEST target and one of the most violent areas in Paterson. Additional VEST partners, including the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, Passaic County Sheriff's Department and the Paterson Police Department assisted in this investigation.

As a result of today's sweeps, the following individuals were arrested:

**Alshaquen Nero, 25**, of Paterson, Leader of Narcotics Trafficking Network, Distribution of CDS, Possession with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Firearm During Commission of CDS Offense, and Conspiracy to commit these crimes.

**Tahir Canady, 25**, of Paterson, Leader of Narcotics Trafficking Network, Distribution of CDS, Possession with Intent to Distribute, Possession of CDS with Intent to Distribute within 500 feet of Public Park, Possession of Firearm During Commission of CDS Offense, and Conspiracy to commit these crimes.

**Shabli Williams, 29**, of Paterson, Leader of Narcotics Trafficking Network, Distribution of CDS, Possession with Intent to Distribute, and Conspiracy to commit these crimes.

**Dequin Bonds aka Justin Wallace, 26**, of Paterson, Distribution of CDS (2 counts), and Possession of CDS with Intent to Distribute within 1000 feet of School (2 counts).

**Maurice Jones, 29**, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS.

**Kwaise Shaw, 18**, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS.

**Quashaun Gatlin, 31**, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS, Conspiracy to Possess a Firearm During Commission of CDS Offense.

**Corey Nero**, 38, of Toms River, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS.

**Kesean Brisbon**, 20, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS.

**Michael Lopez**, 29, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS (2 counts).

**Brandon Fields**, 24, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS, Conspiracy to Possess a Firearm During Commission of CDS Offense.

**Jasmaine Williams**, 27, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS.

**Stanley Edwards**, 19, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS.

**Baseem Williams**, 19, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS.

**Jaumel Reese** , of 24, Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS.

**Quashone Brooks**, 22, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS, Conspiracy to Possess a Firearm During Commission of CDS Offense.

**Louis Adkins**, 20, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS, Conspiracy to Possess a Firearm During Commission of CDS Offense.

**Bernard Smith**, 53, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS.

**Jerome Deas**, 31, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS, Conspiracy to Possess a Firearm During Commission of CDS Offense.

**Justin Rey**, 22, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS.

**Tamija Pope**, 22, of Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS.

**Dominique Graham**, of 24, Paterson, Conspiracy to Distribute CDS.

The charge of Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment during which the person must serve 25 years before being eligible for parole. The conspiracy to distribute a controlled dangerous

substance charges carry a maximum penalty of up to 10 years in New Jersey State prison. The possession of a controlled dangerous substance charge carries a maximum of up to 5 years in New Jersey State prison. The Distribution within 1000 feet of a school charge and the possession of heroin with Intent to Distribute within 1000 feet of school charge each carry a maximum of 5 years with 3 years before parole eligibility. The unlawful possession of a weapon charges each carries a maximum of up to 10 years in New Jersey State Prison. The possession of CDS with intent to distribute within 500 feet of public park each carries a maximum of up to 10 years in New Jersey State Prison. Conspiracy to possess a firearm during commission of CDS Offense each carries a maximum of 10 years with a before parole eligibility.

Bail was set by the Honorable Marilyn C. Clark, Presiding Judge, Criminal Division. The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant Prosecutor Paul DeGroot. Any inquiries may be directed to him at (973) 837-7671 or [pdegroot@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:pdegroot@passaiccountynj.org).

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.