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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Thursday, June 26, 2014**

**Eight Charged With Narcotics Trafficking Following  
Undercover Investigation at Lafayette Gardens Housing Development**

*Approximately 95 Undercover Buys Made During Course of Eight Month Operation*

Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson, together with New York City Police Commissioner William J. Bratton, today announced that eight alleged drug dealers have been variously charged with selling crack cocaine, heroin and marijuana to undercover officers over the past eight months during an anti-drug initiative at Lafayette Gardens in Clinton Hill.

District Attorney Thompson said, “This is the second narcotics takedown in as many weeks in North Brooklyn, underscoring the commitment of the NYPD and my office to improving the quality of life and the safety of the hardworking residents of public housing.”

Commissioner Bratton said, “The New York City Police Department will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to ensure the safety of all residents in public housing. Today’s arrests send a clear message that the sale of narcotics in our communities will not be tolerated. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the NYPD’s Brooklyn North Narcotics Division and the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, these individuals will no longer operate in Lafayette Gardens.”

The investigation began in November 2013 following an increase in shootings and violence in the vicinity of Lafayette Gardens, located in Clinton Hill, and bordered by Lafayette, Classon, DeKalb and Franklin Avenues.

Over the course of the investigation, undercover officers made approximately 95 buys of crack cocaine, heroin and marijuana from the eight defendants charged thus far, as well as several others expected to be charged at a later date. The majority of the undercover buys were made in the lobby and common areas of 456 DeKalb Avenue, which is part of the housing development. Additional buys were made in or near stores and buildings on DeKalb, Classon and Lafayette Avenues.

The defendants were arrested last night and this morning on criminal complaints in which they are variously charged with criminal sale of a controlled substance in the third-degree, a class B felony punishable by up to nine years in prison; One of the defendants is charged with criminal sale of marijuana in the fourth-degree and endangering the welfare of a child, both class A misdemeanors punishable by up to one year in jail.

The investigation was conducted by New York City Police Department Detective Michael Algieri, of the Narcotics Borough Brooklyn North, Major Case Unit, under the supervision of Lieutenant William Buchanan and the overall supervision of Captain Fernando Guimaraes.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Nicholas Scott, of the District Attorney’s Major Narcotics Investigations Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Maria Linares, Bureau Chief and Assistant District Attorney Marc Fliedner, MNIB Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney William E. Schaeffer, Chief of Investigations.

The District Attorney noted that on June 18, 2014, 22 defendants were charged in connection with a narcotics trafficking investigation at the Roosevelt Houses in Bedford-Stuyvesant conducted by his office and the New York City Police Department.

**Defendant Addendum:**

George Risher, dob: 10-8-81, 456 DeKalb Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. Charged with criminal sale of a controlled substance in the third-degree.

Kenneth Burton, dob: 5-6-87, 245 Wortman Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. Charged with criminal sale of a controlled substance in the third-degree.

Jerrell Page, dob: 3-2-90, 399 Kosciuzsko Street, Brooklyn, NY. Charged with criminal sale of a controlled substance in the third-degree.

Zachary Busch, dob: 12-18-90, 325 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. Charged with criminal sale of a controlled substance in the third-degree.

Corey Brown, dob: 10-13-83, 411 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. Charged with criminal sale of a controlled substance in the third-degree.

Kevin Shuler, dob: 1-30-86, 456 DeKalb Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. Charged with criminal sale of a controlled substance in the third-degree.

Edward Miller, dob: 9-10-86, 237 Reid Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. Charged with criminal sale of a controlled substance in the third-degree.

Taneika Decker, dob: 9-13-76, 345 Classon Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. Charged with criminal sale of marihuana in the fourth-degree and endangering the welfare of a child.

**A criminal complaint is an accusatory instruments and not proof of a defendant's guilt.**