

Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARRESTS AND SEARCH WARRANTS IN CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY CASE



Terrial McCracken

Memphis, TN- Three Memphis residents were arrested today as part of an investigation called "Operation Crack Shack," announced Lawrence J. Laurenzi, United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, Keith Brown, Resident Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration-Memphis Resident Office, Nathaniel Jones, Resident Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives-Memphis Resident Office, Mark Luttrell, Sheriff of Shelby County, and Larry Godwin, Director of the Memphis Police Department.

On June 15, 2009, a federal criminal complaint was obtained against Derrick Coble (age 30), a/k/a "D," a/k/a "Lil' Bra," and Rakeisha Richardson (age 23), a/k/a "Lil' Sis," a/k/a "Keisha," charging them with conspiring to possess with the

intent to distribute and to distribute cocaine base (“crack cocaine”) and possessing with the intent to distribute and distributing cocaine base, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846 and Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1). As described in the complaint, on March 3, 2009, members of law enforcement conducted a controlled purchase of approximately 18 ounces of crack cocaine from Coble and Richardson through the use of a confidential informant. Both Coble and Richardson have been arrested and are in federal custody. One additional individual was arrested.

In addition, seven federal search warrants were executed in the Western District of Tennessee on June 16, 2009. Law enforcement officers have seized approximately one-quarter kilogram of crack cocaine, approximately three pounds of marijuana, approximately thirty alprazolam (“Xanax”) and MDMA (“Ecstasy”) pills, five firearms, eight vehicles (including a Cadillac Escalade), approximately \$75,000 (including three bank accounts), and jewelry (including a Rolex watch and diamond bracelets and necklaces). The searches were conducted at seven locations, including Combo’s Hotwings Express Restaurant at 1707 Winchester Road, Suite 104, Memphis, TN 38116.

The penalties for the drug offenses charged in the complaint are a minimum prison term of ten years, and a maximum prison term of life. If a defendant has one prior drug felony conviction, the minimum prison term is increased to 20 years.

The case was initiated by the Memphis Police Department and referred to the Drug Enforcement Administration. Operation Crack Shack was headed by the DEA Drug Task Force (which consists of officers from the DEA, the Memphis Police Department, the **Shelby County Sheriff’s Office**, the Millington Police Department, the Germantown Police Department, the Bartlett Police Department, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and the 25th and 30th Judicial District Drug Task Forces), with assistance from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the **Narcotics and SWAT Units of the Shelby County Sheriff’s Office** and the Organized Crime Unit of the Memphis Police Department. In addition to the agencies listed above, assistance in the execution of the search warrants and arrests was provided by the **United States Marshal’s Service**. Assistant United States Attorneys Arun G. Rao and Christopher E. Cotten with the Memphis Office of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Tennessee are prosecuting the case for the government.

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Note: Charges brought against a person through a complaint or indictment are accusations only. That person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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