



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

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For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 252-6933

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Leader of Todd Place Crew Sentenced To 49-Year Prison Term For Months-Long Rampage One Killed, 12 Others Shot, Including Innocent Bystanders

WASHINGTON - Joseph A. Jenkins, 29, the leader of the Todd Place Crew, a gang that engaged in murder, assaults, drug trafficking and other crimes, was sentenced today to 49 years in prison, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. and Cathy L. Lanier, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

Jenkins, aka "Boogie," and three associates from the Todd Place Crew were among the first defendants to be convicted under a criminal street gang statute passed by the D.C. Council in 2006. A jury found the men guilty after a nine-week trial that ended in November 2010.

All told, Jenkins was convicted of 17 felony counts, including the criminal street gang offenses, first degree murder while armed, assault with a dangerous weapon, obstruction of justice, and various firearms charges. He was sentenced today by the Honorable Judge Lynn Leibovitz in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Also convicted in the case were Darnell Anderson, aka "Peanut," 24; James C. Bates, aka "Pee Wee," 28, and Edward Warren, 19. Warren, who is serving a 40-year prison sentence for other crimes, was sentenced by Judge Leibovitz on January 12, 2010 to an additional nine years in this case. Anderson and Bates are awaiting sentencing.

The Todd Place Crew, based in the unit block of Todd Place NE, had a decade-long history of drug trafficking and gun violence. The crew routinely engaged in acts of violence in order to retaliate against other groups and to protect their turf. They also shared weapons and engaged in acts of obstruction of justice to thwart law enforcement attempts to investigate their activities.

According to the government's evidence, the gang was responsible for a series of shootings that led to the death of one person and the wounding of 12 other people, including

innocent bystanders, between April and July 2008. Jenkins, who evidence showed had been selling crack cocaine in the area, was the driving force and leader of the violent campaign to wage gang war in the Lincoln Road neighborhood of Northeast Washington. The primary target was another gang known as the T Street Crew.

“Today’s 49-year sentence is a fitting punishment for the leader of a violent crew who sought revenge with a vicious string of shootings that left one person dead and 12 more wounded,” said U.S. Attorney Machen. “This sentence should make people think before retaliating with violence – ‘is it worth it?’ Mr. Jenkins will have the next 49 years behind bars to decide whether his shooting spree was worth it.”

“The sentencing in this case is significant because it highlights our collective efforts to put a stop to violent gang activity,” said Police Chief Lanier. “I have spoken many times about the importance of a rapid and coordinated response with the U.S. Attorney’s Office and our federal partners when gang violence erupts. Our communities have had enough.”

The crimes followed a shooting on April 14, 2008. That day, William Foster, 28, a Todd Place Crew member and leader, was fatally shot, at 4:50 p.m., as he sat in traffic at the intersection of North Capitol and R Streets NE. Foster was Jenkins’s half-brother.

Later that evening, members of the Todd Place Crew plotted their revenge.

The morning after Foster’s murder, Jenkins followed up with six other conspirators and gang members to plot a retaliatory drive-by shooting of a T Street Crew member. Jenkins, Bates and Anderson were convicted of charges in the subsequent attack: the April 15, 2008 homicide of Gary O. English, which occurred during rush hour on the North Capitol corridor.

English, 34, a T Street Crew member who had nothing to do with the earlier violence, was fatally wounded in a drive-by shooting at 5:40 p.m. in the 2000 block of Lincoln Road NE, as he was walking home from work. A 64-year-old passerby also was wounded, shot while walking up the street to a barbecue. Jenkins and Anderson were the gunmen who carried out the attack.

Three days after English was slain, two more people were shot by the Todd Place Crew in the 1200 block of Brentwood Road NE. Then, on May 10, 2008, Jenkins and Warren fired more than 26 times in an attack in the 1700 block of North Capitol Street, hitting the victim, a T Street Crew member, a total of nine times.

On May 26, 2008, two more T Street Crew members were shot while on a porch in the 200 block of Randolph Place NE. Finally, on July 25, 2008, six people were shot, also while gathered on a porch, in the 1700 block of Lincoln Road NE, including two T Street Crew members.

During today's sentencing proceedings, the judge spoke about the impact the crimes had on the Lincoln Road area and said that Jenkins believed he was "indulgently entitled" to avenge the death of his half-brother.

In announcing the sentencing, U.S. Attorney Machen and Chief Lanier praised the outstanding efforts of those who worked on the case from the MPD: Detectives Anthony Greene, James Wilson, Eric Schuler, Bobby Cephas, Dean Combee, Carter Adams, Eric Fenton, Tony Patterson, Carol Queen, Randall Parker, Alex Mac Bean, Kristal Boyd, Jamel Greene, Anthony Commodore and Joe Oh; Sgt. Durriyah Habeebullah, and Officers Jonathan Jordan and J.D. Smith.

They also praised the hard work of a team from the U.S. Attorney's Office that included Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Ambrosino, who assisted with litigation on forensic issues; Victim Witness Advocates Marcia Rinker and Shawn Slade; Intelligence Analyst Sharon Johnson; Litigation Services Technicians Josh Ellen and Leif Hickling, and Paralegal Specialists Ethel Gregory and Alesha Mathews.

Finally they praised the extraordinary work of Assistant U.S. Attorneys David P. Saybolt and Eric P. Gallun, who investigated the case and brought it to trial.

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