



U. S. Department of Justice

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**10 ALLEGED AURORA DRUG TRAFFICKERS CHARGED IN
THIRD PHASE OF CONTINUING FEDERAL AND LOCAL INVESTIGATION**

CHICAGO -- For the third time since launching a crackdown on violent street gang drug-trafficking in west suburban Aurora eight months ago, federal law enforcement agencies and the Aurora Police Department today began arresting 10 new defendants in the latest round of charges resulting from the ongoing federal, state and local investigation. Aurora police and federal agents had arrested nine defendants by mid-morning and were searching for one other, in addition to executing search warrants at six Aurora locations. One defendant was arrested in El Paso, Tex. A criminal complaint filed late yesterday alleges that the defendants participated in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine in the Aurora area in 2001 and 2002, announced Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

The new charges bring to 44 the number of defendants who have been charged federally since the earlier arrests last July, and again in October, of alleged members, former members or associates of the Latin Kings or Gangster Disciples street gangs that allegedly control drug-trafficking activity in Aurora. The investigation has resulted in the seizure of more than 50 kilograms of cocaine, approximately \$620,000 in cash and numerous firearms, authorities said.

Nine of the 10 new defendants allegedly were wholesale customers -- and the 10th, **Ricardo N. Velasquez**, allegedly was a supplier -- of Juan Corral, who was arrested on June 24, 2002, allegedly in possession of 50 kilograms of cocaine. All 10 were charged with participating in a conspiracy with Corral and others to possess and distribute cocaine between March 2001 and June 2002.

Eight of the defendants arrested today were expected to have initial appearances at 3 p.m. before U.S. Magistrate Judge Edward Bobrick in U.S. District Court. A list of the defendants is attached. The defendant arrested in Texas, **Juan Acevedo**, will face initial court proceedings there.

“Federal law enforcement and the Aurora police have formed a great partnership that is committed to working together to protect the law-abiding citizens of Aurora from the scourge of gunfire and drugs,” Mr. Fitzgerald said. “We will not let up.”

Mr. Fitzgerald announced the charges with Thomas J. Kneir, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Larry Ford, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Division of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Aurora Police Chief William J. Lawler; James W. Martin, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division; and Anita L. Davidson, Inspector-in-Charge of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in Chicago. Assisting in executing the arrest and search warrants today were the Kane County Sheriff’s Office and North Central Narcotics Task Force, the North Aurora Police Department, the Carpentersville Police Department and the Chicago Police Department.

The eight defendants taken into custody this morning are **Maurice Poole, Tinelious Stewart, Jose Rubio, Roosevelt Ratliff, Vanessa Daniels, Alfred McGowan, Marvin McGowan** and **Ricardo Velasquez**. Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of the remaining

defendant, **Jerry Owens**, is encouraged to contact the Aurora Police Department at (630) 859-1700.

If convicted, all of the defendants charged today face a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment without parole and a maximum fine of \$4 million. Note, however, that the Court, will determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed under the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The government is being represented by Assistant United States Attorneys Lawrence Beaumont and Christina Egan.

The public is reminded that complaints contain only charges and are not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

United States v. Poole, et al., 03 CR 280

Maurice Poole 437 Lake Lawn Blvd., Aurora	DOB 5/22/60
Tinelious Stewart (aka Teddy Bear) 1023 Autumn Lane, Aurora	DOB 7/24/77
Jose Rubio (aka Chivo) 26 South East Ave., Aurora	DOB 2/23/74
Roosevelt Ratliff (aka Bubba) 14635 Jefferson, Harvey	DOB 7/31/60
Juan Acevedo (aka Baby) 725 Grove St., Aurora	DOB 1/18/72
Jerry Owens (aka Trepid) 941 Old Indian Trail, Apt. 306, Aurora	DOB 8/7/72
Vanessa Daniels 404 Spruce St., North Aurora	DOB 4/28/72
Alfred McGowan 14 Oxford Dr., Apt. 6, Carpentersville	DOB 9/28/64
Marvin McGowan 567 East Ashland, Apt. A, Aurora	DOB 7/21/69
Ricardo N. Velasquez (aka Nose) 372 Marion Ave., Aurora	DOB 4/3/61

Note: The dates of birth and addresses listed were the best known for each defendant prior to arrest.

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