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**MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY CHARGES FOUR MEMBERS OF  
LARGE-SCALE OXYCODONE DISTRIBUTION RING**

*Ring Allegedly Distributed More Than  
120,000 Oxycodone Pills Worth Approximately \$7 Million*

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and GEORGE VENIZELOS, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced the unsealing of an Indictment yesterday charging four members of a Connecticut-based criminal organization with conspiracy to distribute large quantities of OxyContin and other oxycodone pills.

According to the Indictment unsealed yesterday, and other documents filed in Manhattan federal court:

From 2006 to 2008, RAYMOND CAPOZZIELLO headed a large-scale oxycodone trafficking organization that sold more than 120,000 tablets of oxycodone worth more than more than \$7 million in and around Bridgeport, Connecticut. Approximately half of the pills sold were 80-milligram tablets of OxyContin. These drugs are powerful painkillers with a high potential for addiction and abuse; they are sold on the street as a substitute for heroin and other illegal drugs for up to \$80 per pill.

CAPOZZIELLO and his second-in-command, MARCUS ERODICI, recruited at least ten straw buyers for the pills, including MICHAEL WALKER and ALEXANDER VANGHELE, to travel from Connecticut to Manhattan to visit a particular pain management doctor ("Physiatrist A"), who wrote prescriptions for hundreds of oxycodone tablets for each straw buyer every thirty days. The

straw buyers then traveled to a particular pharmacist in Manhattan ("Pharmacist A") who filled these large prescriptions in the name of the straw buyers, at a cost of thousands of dollars per prescription. The straw buyers provided the pills to CAPOZZIELLO, ERODICI, or another member of the organization, so that the pills could be distributed for a profit to drug addicts in and around Bridgeport, Connecticut. CAPOZZIELLO paid the expenses incurred by the straw buyers, including the cost of the visit to Physiatrist A and the money paid to Pharmacist A for the pills. In addition, members of the conspiracy also paid cash to the straw buyers for their services. CAPOZZIELLO and ERODICI even obtained prescriptions themselves for hundreds of pills of oxycodone through Physiatrist A every thirty days, which they then filled with Pharmacist A and illegally distributed.

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ERODICI, WALKER, and VANGHELE were presented yesterday in Manhattan federal court before United States Magistrate Judge KEVIN NATHANIEL FOX and CAPOZZIELLO was presented today.

The attached charts set forth the charges, and their corresponding maximum penalties, contained in the Indictment unsealed earlier today, as well as the defendants' ages and places of residence. This case has been assigned to United States District Judge KIMBA M. WOOD.

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of the FBI and thanked the New York State Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement for their assistance in the investigation. He added that the investigation is continuing.

This case is being handled by the Office's Complex Frauds Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys DAVID B. MASSEY and SEETHA RAMACHANDRAN are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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U.S. v. RAYMOND CAPOZZIELLO et al.

<b>Defendant</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>City and State</b>
RAYMOND CAPOZZIELLO	45	Trumbull, CT
MARCUS ERODICI	43	Stratford, CT
MICHAEL WALKER	52	Oxford, CT
ALEXANDER VANGHELE	51	Bridgeport, CT

<b>Ct.</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Defendants</b>	<b>Maximum Penalty</b>
1	Conspiracy to distribute oxycodone	RAYMOND CAPOZZIELLO MARCUS ERODICI MICHAEL WALKER ALEXANDER VANGHELE	Maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, and fine of the greater of \$1,000,000, or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the crime
2	Distribution of oxycodone	RAYMOND CAPOZZIELLO MARCUS ERODICI MICHAEL WALKER ALEXANDER VANGHELE	Maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, and fine of the greater of \$1,000,000, or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the crime