



www.bronxda.nyc.gov
www.facebook.com/BronxDistrictAttorney
www.twitter.com/BronxDAClark

DARCEL D. CLARK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

198 EAST 161ST STREET
BRONX, N.Y. 10451
(718) 590-2234

51-2024
For Immediate Release
July 3, 2024

8 BRONX MEN INDICTED IN CONNECTION WITH GUN, COCAINE AND METH SALES IN SHADOW OF YANKEE STADIUM

Defendant Sold a Gun to Undercover on Crowded Street Right Before Game; Total of 11 Firearms, Including AK-47, and \$418K Recovered in Investigation

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and New York City Police Commissioner Edward Caban today announced that eight Bronx men have been indicted on charges related to selling firearms, cocaine, and methamphetamine steps away from Yankee Stadium.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant who allegedly sold eight guns to an undercover NYPD officer allegedly put thousands of subway commuters, those who work and go to school nearby, and baseball fans in jeopardy. These alleged traffickers conducted business in broad daylight, down the block from the Stadium and beneath the elevated subway station.”

NYPD Commissioner Caban said, “These charges underscore the destructive threat that illegal guns and drugs continue to pose on the streets of New York City, as well as our unwavering dedication to improving quality of life in every neighborhood. I commend the efforts of the brave undercover officer in this case, and I thank our partners in the office of the Bronx district attorney for their ongoing commitment to our shared public safety mission.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendants, Jeriel Fernandez, 30, Jael Fernandez, 21, Jonathan Fernandez, 31, (all related), Marvin Fortuna, 29, Ronny Fortuna, 32, (related) Jose Tejada Jr., 26, and his father, Jose Tejada Sr., 60, and Christian Espinal, 49, all of the Bronx, are variously charged in a 108-count indictment charging first-degree Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, second-degree Conspiracy, first-degree Criminal Sale of a Firearm, and related charges. The Tejadas, the Fortunas and Jonathan Fernandez were arraigned on July 2, 2024, before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Brenda Rivera. Jose Tejada Jr. is remanded. The other arraignments are pending.

District Attorney Clark said the investigation began in March 2023, outside of 90 East 161st Street, the former Lush Smoke Shop, where an undercover investigator allegedly purchased cocaine and methamphetamine pills from Jose Tejada Jr.



www.bronxda.nyc.gov
www.facebook.com/BronxDistrictAttorney
www.twitter.com/BronxDAClark

DARCEL D. CLARK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

198 EAST 161ST STREET
BRONX, N.Y. 10451
(718) 590-2234

Investigators also discovered Tejada was allegedly working with Ronny Fortuna and Marvin Fortuna who were allegedly selling cocaine in the proximity of the Smoke Shop. Marvin Fortuna also allegedly cooked, packed, and distributed cocaine from his home at 1875 University Avenue. Jeriel Fernandez and Jael Fernandez allegedly supplied large amounts of powdered cocaine to Tejada Jr.

According to the investigation, in January 2024, Tejada Jr. allegedly progressed to firearms sales, and sold a total of eight weapons to the undercover investigator. The sales occurred on Gerard Avenue near East 161 Street. The last sale occurred on April 10, 2024, at about 6:30 p.m., when Tejada Jr. handed the undercover a backpack containing a loaded 9-mm pistol.

The long-term investigation led to multiple search warrants in defendants' homes on May 17, 2024, in which additional defendants were arrested and three firearms—including an AK-47—drugs and nearly \$418,000 in cash were recovered.

The investigation also found the defendants were using a white Sprinter van parked outside the Smoke Shop to store narcotics and a gun. The van had a cut-out window and was adorned with bright colored advertising for edible marijuana flavors.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Stephen Russo of the Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau and Alessandra Ambrosi of the Special Investigations Bureau, under the supervision of Craig Cecchini, Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau, and under the overall supervision of Denise Kodjo, Deputy Chief of Investigations Division and Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of Investigations Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Wiretap Specialist Samantha Urena of the Special Investigation Bureau, and BXDA Detective Investigators Brendan Hammond, Frank Mazella, Senior Detective Investigator Gregory Maloney and Anai Tamarez, Lieutenant Vincent Cantarella, Deputy Chief Investigator Peter Holness and Chief Investigator Frank Chiara for their work in the case.

District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Detective Victor Voronkov, and Lieutenant Andrew Bocchieri and Zone 2 from the Narcotics Borough Bronx for their work on the case.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt