

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



THOMAS J. SPOTA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## SCDA PRESS ADVISORY FOR MONDAY April 15, 2013

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota will announce the arrests Monday of a Long Island couple and a Georgia man for gun trafficking. "Since last November, DA Squad detectives working on our Gun Suppression Team focused on a ring moving illegal handguns from Georgia into Suffolk County," DA Spota said. "The team infiltrated this gunrunning enterprise using electronic, telephonic, video and human surveillance."

"Criminal interstate firearms trafficking is a widespread and expanding plague," DA Spota said. "We encountered large caliber, more lethal handguns in .9mm and .40 calibers from Georgia that were purchased during this investigation by gun team detectives during eleven covert buys. The detectives in our Gun Suppression Team will continue their important work to disrupt the flow of illegal guns into Suffolk County and the New York metropolitan area."

District Attorney Spota said the three defendants, currently incarcerated in the county jail in lieu of bail on weapons charges, will be arraigned in Suffolk County court in Riverhead tomorrow morning, Monday, April 15.

The two suspects from Suffolk County, Shawdale Frederick, 32, and Janet Lewis, 33, both of Middle Island, and Joshua Galbert, 31, of Marietta, Georgia, will have their indictment unsealed Monday by Suffolk County Judge James Hudson.

District Attorney Spota will elaborate on the six-month investigation and the resulting arrests Monday (4/15) at **11:30 am in Hauppauge in the conference room of the district attorney's office**. Over 50 handguns, bulletproof vests and a silencer purchased by the Gun Team detectives during the investigation will be exhibited.

Cell phone photos from seller offering Georgia handguns to undercover detectives will also be shown.

Among the handguns and ammo from Georgia in the exhibit:

- Smith & Wesson 40 Caliber (loaded)
- Llama .45 Caliber (loaded)
- Springfield 9x19 (loaded)
- Desert Eagle 50 Caliber
- Colt PT 357 Magnum
- Ruger P 345 defaced
- Jiminez 9mm
- Smith & Wesson 9mm
- Taurus 9mm
- Glock Model 26 9mm
- Sig Sauer 9mm
- Ruger P85 MKII 9mm (loaded)
- Smith & Wesson Revolver 44 Magnum

Ninety percent of the handguns seized by law enforcement in NY come from out-of-state via “The Iron Pipeline”, the route on I-95 gun traffickers use to transport thousands of guns purchased in Georgia, Virginia, Florida and North and South Carolina.

Statistics show guns were used in more than 58% of the murders statewide in 2011. Of the 769 homicides reported in 2011, 393 of the victims were shot with a handgun, according to data recorded by the state Division of Criminal Justice Services.



## **SCDA Press Conference with District Attorney Thomas Spota**

**Topic: Arrest and indictment of gun traffickers**

**Time: 11:30 am**

**Where: Hauppauge office of District Attorney Thomas Spota, Building #77, North County Complex, Veterans Memorial Highway.**

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Defendants are entitled to a fair trial with the burden on the government to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.