

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

August 14, 2012

## **Bronx-to-Brookhaven Town heroin ring busted**

Eight arrests have been made by the Suffolk County District Attorney's Heroin Task Force in connection with a Coram-based heroin and prostitution ring responsible for drug sales in Port Jefferson, Port Jefferson Station, Centereach, Selden, Farmingville, Patchogue, Medford, and Middle Island. The task force was formed by District Attorney Thomas Spota in 2009 to focus on the burgeoning availability of heroin on Long Island and is comprised of District Attorney Detectives, Suffolk Sheriff's Office investigators provided by Sheriff Vincent DeMarco, and the New York State Police Narcotics Enforcement Unit under the supervision of Senior Investigators Peter McArdle and Michael Marin.

District Attorney Thomas Spota said Sandra Russell, 26, and Steven McDaniel, 29, are the Suffolk County-based ringleaders who received raw, uncut heroin approximately every two weeks from a Bronx supplier, Taquan Rashad, 43, of 1406 Miriam Avenue. D.A. Spota said Russell was not only running a heroin ring but also a prostitution service out of her residences at 11 Gettysburg Court and 357 Skyline Drive in Coram.

"Defendant Russell was a master manipulator of these young women who, in exchange for their prostitution services, she provided housing, clothing, food, cell phones and what they needed most – heroin," said District Attorney Spota. Monday's arraignment of Sandra Russell on a grand jury indictment before Judge Stephen Braslow (third floor of courthouse) was adjourned to today, Tuesday, August 14, in Riverhead.

Also arrested by Task Force detectives were Lee Appling of 1974 Route 112 Coram, who assisted Russell by allegedly hiding heroin in his home, and four suspects who served as "runners" for the ring; David Holmes, 51, of Coram, Jennifer Licata, 23, of Farmingville, Jahiteak Appling, 21, of Medford and Deborah Trezza, 22, of Coram. Runners are responsible for the distribution and sale of illegal narcotics to various communities. District Attorney Spota said street sales of heroin occurred outside the Meat Farms store on Canal Road in Port Jefferson Station, the Handy Pantry convenience store in Coram, the town pool in Centereach (at night when the pool was closed), the K-Mart store on North Ocean Avenue in Farmingville and a McDonald's restaurant in Centereach.

The district attorney said the Heroin Task Force investigation began in June last year.

According to records seized during the execution of search warrants, Russell paid the women in heroin. "The more they prostituted themselves, the more heroin they received," District Attorney Spota said. "These women turned over all of the money they were paid, including tips, to Russell." Sandra Russell had at least four prostitutes under her control, advertising their services on the website backpage.com.

Also recovered via search warrant from Russell's home was a document from Steven McDaniel outlining for Russell his management advice on the operation of a prostitution business (**document attached**).

- Recovered by Heroin Task Force detectives at Appling's house on Route 112 in Coram: a sleeve and a half of heroin (150 bags) and a small amount of cocaine,
- Recovered by Task Force detectives from Taquan Rashad's Nissan Altima: Fifty grams of raw heroin and assorted jewelry, including two Rolex watches each with a price tag of \$16,000,
- Recovered by Task Force detectives from defendant Russell's home: \$8,379 in cash and 100 bags of heroin hidden in a bassinet.

### **Pedigree sheet w/Defendant DOB, address and Indictment charges**

#### **Sandra Russell – d/o/b 04/09/1986**

11 Gettysburg Court, Coram, NY

Charges:

- 2 Counts - Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree
- 2 Counts - Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree
- 2 Counts - Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Fourth Degree
- 4 Counts - Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree
- 2 Counts - Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree
- 1 Count - Promoting Prostitution in the Third Degree
- 1 Count - Conspiracy in the Second Degree
- 1 Count - Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree

#### **Steven McDaniel – d/o/b 07/17/1983**

11 Gettysburg Court, Coram, NY

- 1 Count - Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree
- 1 Count - Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree
- 1 Count - Conspiracy in the Second Degree

#### **Taquan Rashad – d/o/b 01/27/1969**

1406 Miriam Avenue, Bronx, NY

- 2 Counts - Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree
- 1 Count - Conspiracy in the Second Degree

#### **Lee Appling – d/o/b 07/16/1966**

1974 Route 112, Coram, NY

- 1 Count - Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Fourth Degree
- 2 Counts - Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree
- 1 Count - Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree
- 1 Count - Conspiracy in the Second Degree
- 1 Count - Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree

#### **David Holmes – d/o/b 12/13/1960**

11 Gettysburg Court, Coram, NY

- 5 Counts - Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree
- 5 Counts - Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree
- 1 Count - Conspiracy in the Second Degree
- 1 Count - Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree

**Jennifer Licata – d/o/b 01/06/1989**

21 Weldon Lane, Farmingville, NY

2 Counts - Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree

2 Counts - Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree

1 Count - Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree

1 Count - Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree

1 Count - Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Fourth Degree

1 Count - Conspiracy in the Second Degree

1 Count - Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree

**Jahiteak Appling – d/o/b 05/09/1991**

14 Tilney Avenue, Medford, NY

1 Count - Conspiracy in the Second Degree

1 Count - Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree

**Deborah Trezza – d/o/b 02/27/1990**

11 Gettysburg Court, Coram, NY

1 Count - Conspiracy in the Second Degree

1 Count - Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree