



LYNNE ABRAHAM
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
THREE SOUTH PENN SQUARE
CORNER OF JUNIPER AND SOUTH
PENN SQUARE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107**

NEWS RELEASE

Date: May 12, 2008
Contact: Cathie Abookire / 215-686-8711
Director of Communications

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE CHARGES NINETEEN WITH ILLEGALLY TRANSFERRING HANDGUNS

*Gun Violence Task Force Has Seized a Total of 262 Firearms, Arrested 165 People
and Opened 594 Investigations Since December 2006*

GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE CONTINUES TO MAKE ARRESTS

May 12, 2008----District Attorney Lynne Abraham, Attorney General Tom Corbett and Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey today announced that the Gun Violence Task Force has arrested or obtained arrest warrants for 19 more individuals and charged them with the illegal transfer/possession of handguns. Since it began in December 2006, the Task Force has opened 594 investigations involving the illegal transfer of firearms, made 165 arrests, and seized 262 firearms. In addition, the Task Force has assisted Philadelphia police in solving numerous shootings, burglaries, and at least one homicide.

In December 2006, with funding from the State Legislature and spearheaded by State Sen. Vincent Fumo, District Attorney Lynne Abraham and Attorney General Tom Corbett launched the Gun Violence Task Force to attack the proliferation of illegal guns on city streets. Composed of veteran investigators and seasoned prosecutors, and working in close coordination with the Philadelphia Police Department, the Task Force began operations in Southwest Philadelphia and has since expanded into all six of the city's police Divisions.

Under Pennsylvania law, a convicted felon is prohibited from purchasing a firearm. Licensed gun dealers require proof of identity and perform a record check prior to making a sale. Unable to legally purchase firearms from a licensed dealer, felons use false identification or hire "Straws", citizens with no criminal record, to purchase guns for them. The "Straw", after buying the gun and delivering it to the felon, frequently reports the gun as stolen in an attempt to avoid criminal responsibility when the gun is

later used in a crime. Felons also illegally purchase weapons “on the street” - most often guns stolen in burglaries.

It was announced today that the following have been arrested:

Randolph Henry, 26, of the 100 block of E. Ruscumb Street. It is alleged that Henry falsified purchase forms to buy a 9mm and two other handguns, which he subsequently reported stolen. The 9mm handgun was later seized by Philadelphia police following a shooting at 53rd and Larchwood Streets. Henry is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree.

Kevin Mathis, 53, of the 4500 block of Sansom Street. It is alleged that on or about April 16, 2008, Mathis, a convicted felon and fugitive, attempted to purchase a .357 caliber handgun at a Philadelphia gun store. Mathis is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree.

Marvelous Richardson, 22, of the 2400 block of N. 5th Street. It is alleged that Richardson straw purchased a 9mm handgun for Rahman Jenkins. Jenkins was shot and killed seven days later when he pointed the loaded hand gun at police. Richardson is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree.

Steven Brasbey, 25, of the 2400 block of N. Myrtlewood Street. It is alleged that Brasbey, a convicted felon, used a straw to purchase 8 handguns. One of the guns was subsequently recovered by Philadelphia police from Joseph Steward along with drugs. Brasbey is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Easton Luke Moore, 26, of the 400 block of Van Kirk Street. It is alleged that Moore straw purchased six handguns. One of the weapons, a .357 caliber, was recovered by Philadelphia police from Hikenee Kelly, a convicted felon. Another loaded 9mm was recovered by Philadelphia police from Vincent Segers, also a convicted felon. A third loaded handgun, a .40 caliber, was seized by Philadelphia police when they arrested two other men, Hassan Bacon and Rashann Geiger, a convicted drug dealer. Moore is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Tonell Fuller, 23, of the 300 block of N. 61st Street. It is alleged that Fuller was arrested in possession of drugs and a 9mm handgun stolen in Montgomery County. Fuller is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 3925, Theft by Receiving Stolen Property, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6106, Firearm not to be Carried Without A License, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6108, Carrying a Firearm on a Public

Street, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; 35 Pa.C.S. 780-113(a)(30), Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance, a felony; and 35 PA.C.S. 780-113 (a)(16), Knowing and Intentional Possession of a Controlled Substance, a misdemeanor.

Hameed Williams, 21, of the 6000 block of Irvine Street. It is alleged that Williams illegally provided a handgun to his brother, a juvenile, who carried the weapon into his school. Williams is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6110.1, Providing a Firearm to a Minor, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; and Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Xavier Wilson, 24, of the 1600 block of S. 27th Street. It is alleged that Wilson stole a .380 caliber handgun from a residence and “loaned” it to a drug dealer for \$40 cash and \$45 worth of marijuana. The dealer was subsequently arrested by Philadelphia police in a crack house in possession of the loaded firearm. Wilson is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 3921, Theft by Unlawful Taking, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 3925, Theft by Receiving Stolen Property, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 3rd degree.

John Lewis, 41, of the 200 block of Eagle School Road, Wayne, PA. It is alleged that Lewis illegally sold 3 handguns from his deceased father’s gun collection for \$500 worth of crack cocaine. One of the handguns was recovered by Philadelphia police from a juvenile after it had been used in a shooting. Lewis is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6106, Firearm not to be Carried Without A License, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6108, Carrying a Firearm on a Public Street, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Melissa Walsh, 25, of the 100 block of W. Bridge Street, Morrisville, PA. It is alleged that Walsh straw purchased two handguns for a convicted drug dealer, and then falsely reported the guns stolen. Walsh is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Gary Jackson, 41, of the 100 block of Anchor Street and **Ronald Mc Beth**, 41, of the 6000 block of Crescentville Road. It is alleged that Jackson, a convicted felon on State Parole, conspired with Mc Beth to straw purchase a .38 caliber handgun. Task Force agents followed the pair from the gun store, and Jackson was subsequently arrested in possession of the handgun. Both are charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 3rd degree. Jackson is also charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Kenneth Byrd, 46, of the 400 block of Pavonia Circle, Marlton, N.J. It is alleged that Byrd obtained a fraudulent Pennsylvania Identification card and used it to illegally purchase eight handguns. He then illegally transferred at least one of the handguns to his brother-in-law. Byrd is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a

misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Kevin Hogan, 37, of the 12000 block of McCarthy Circle,. It is alleged that Hogan, a convicted felon, falsified paperwork in an attempt to purchase a 9mm handgun. Hogan is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree.

In addition to the above arrests, warrants have been issued for:

Norman Mathis, aka Fulton, 22, of the 5100 block of Parkside Avenue, and **Shane Bess**, 21, of the 5100 lock of W. Columbia Avenue. It is alleged that Mathis, a convicted felon, was arrested by Philadelphia police and charged with attempted murder in connection with a shooting in the 5200 block of Heston Street. At the time of his arrest, Mathis was carrying a .380 caliber handgun. Investigation by the Task Force revealed that Mathis had used a straw purchaser to buy the .380 handgun as well as a 9mm handgun. It is alleged that Bess assisted in the straw purchase of the 9mm. Mathis is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a felony of the 2nd degree. Both Mathis and Bess are charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Alton Daniel, 29, of the 6300 block of Crittenden Street. It is alleged that Daniel, a convicted felon, used a straw purchaser to buy a .45 caliber handgun for him. The gun was subsequently used by Jamar Jackson in a robbery. The robbery victim gained control of the weapon, and shot and killed Jackson. Daniel is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Corey Scott, 23, of the 2600 block of W. Seltzer Street. It is alleged that Scott, a convicted felon, used a straw purchaser to buy a 9mm handgun for him. Scott was subsequently arrested by Philadelphia police carrying the loaded firearm on the street. Scott is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6105, Person not to Possess Firearm, a felony of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4904, Unsworn Falsification, a misdemeanor of the 2nd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 4911, Tampering with Public Records or Information, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 2nd degree.

Charles O'Connor, 24, of the 300 block of King Road, West Chester, PA. It is alleged that O'Connor stole a .380 caliber handgun in Chester County and sold it on the street in Philadelphia for \$150. O'Connor is charged with violating 18 PA.C.S. 6106, Firearm not to be Carried Without A License, a felony of the 3rd degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6108, Carrying a Firearm on a Public Street, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree; 18 PA.C.S. 6111, Illegal Transfer of Firearms, a felony of the 3rd degree; and 18 PA.C.S. 903, Conspiracy, a felony of the 3rd degree.

Felonies of the 2nd degree are punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment and a \$25,000 fine. Felonies of the 3rd degree are punishable by up to 7 years imprisonment and a \$15,000 fine. Misdemeanors of the 1st degree are punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. Conviction of more than one count of 18 PA.C.S.A 6111 is a felony of the 2nd degree and carries a **mandatory** sentence of five to 10 years imprisonment and a \$25,000 fine.