



NORTH METRO TASK FORCE

ADAMS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BRIGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
BROOMFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMERCE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
FEDERAL HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT
NORTHGLENN POLICE DEPARTMENT
THORNTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

DRUG ENFORCEMENT DIVISION DENVER DIVISION

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PRESS RELEASE

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Drug Investigation Targets Gang Members 45 Defendants Indicted in Racketeering Case

In the early morning hours today the North Metro Task Force, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office executed eight search warrants and made several arrests as part of a nine-month methamphetamine and cocaine investigation that has resulted in the grand jury indictment of 45 defendants and the seizure of several pounds of methamphetamine and cocaine, numerous firearms and recovery of stolen vehicles.

The nine-month investigation identified a drug trafficking organization operated by several Los Premios Padres (LPP) gang members who are involved in the distribution of large amounts of methamphetamine and cocaine from Mexico in the north metro area of Denver, Colorado.

This organization sold several pounds of methamphetamine and cocaine throughout the Denver metro area, stole motor vehicles and committed burglaries to further their criminal enterprise. The indictment was returned Tuesday by the grand jury. Charges in the 230-count indictment include racketeering under the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act, conspiracy, various drug possession and distribution charges, kidnapping, robbery, burglary, theft and aggravated motor vehicle theft.

To date, the investigation has resulted in 77 arrests, including 29 of the indicted defendants. In addition, large amounts of methamphetamine, cocaine, firearms, and vehicles have been seized during this investigation.

"The dismantling of this particular dangerous and organized criminal group is a testimony to the strength of our multi-law enforcement partnerships in joining available detective resources for the protection of all our communities," said Thornton Police Chief Randy Nelson.

"Our streets are safer tonight because this operation successfully took aim, investigated and will ultimately prosecute a violent criminal network plaguing the Denver metro area," said DEA Special Agent-In-Charge for the Denver Office Barbra Roach.

"This was a very large and dangerous drug organization," said 17th Judicial District Attorney Dave Young. "The Colorado Organized Crime Control Act is designed specifically to take down criminal organizations like this. The public has a high expectation of those of us in public safety that we will pursue these criminal organizations and we have done that today. This case will have a big impact on drug operations in the 17th Judicial District."

"Law enforcement is at its best when we collaborate," Young said. "I would like to thank everyone involved in this investigation, the North Metro Task Force, the DEA and the members of our office who worked so hard on this case."

The indictment remains sealed pending the arrest of the remaining defendants.

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