

## 19 CHARGED IN DRIVE-UP COCAINE RING - AGENT: GANG SOLD IN DETROIT, 3 SUBURBS

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Nineteen Detroit-area residents have been charged in federal court with running a large-scale drugs-on-wheels operation on the west side of Detroit and three suburbs.

The gang, called the **Joy Boys**, took drug orders over the telephone and told customers to drive to residential side streets to wait for a delivery car to arrive at ever-changing locations, authorities said. A short time later, they said, gang members would pull up to deliver crack or powdered cocaine to buyers who were lined up in vehicles along the curb.

The gang allegedly sold \$30,000 worth of drugs a day on the west side of Detroit, Redford Township, Dearborn and Allen Park, authorities said.

"For approximately the past three years, the organization has essentially operated a mobile crack house, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week," Michael Yott, special agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, said in a 33-page affidavit accompanying the criminal complaint. He said the gang's sophisticated tactics helped it elude authorities.

Eleven suspects, including the reputed ringleaders, made initial appearances Monday in U.S. District Court in Detroit on cocaine possession and distribution charges, which carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine upon conviction. They were arrested Sunday.

The affidavit said the gang was run by Contrell (Trel) Smith, 22, of Redford Township; his brother Cornell (Rob) Smith, 24, of Dearborn; and Arvie (Clete) Quinn, 23, and Galvin (Bird) Bowden, 24, both of Detroit. The four men plus seven others were freed on \$10,000 unsecured bonds.

Yott said the gang operated successfully because the conversations between buyers and delivery people were limited to a few seconds; the deals were done at ever-changing locations; the delivery vehicles carried only a limited supply of drugs, and buyers could purchase only limited quantities.

"It was a very sophisticated operation, and they ran the business in a way we hadn't seen before," said Valerie Goddard, special agent in charge of the Detroit ATF. "Once we figured out how they were doing it, we had to come up with novel means to deal with it."

The ATF headed up a 14-month investigation involving several law enforcement agencies.

Yott's affidavit said agents raided a Dearborn apartment in March where the gang allegedly packaged cocaine and recovered four firearms and a large amount of cocaine. Yott said the gang then began packaging drugs in rooms at the Residence Inn on the Southfield Freeway service

drive in Detroit, which was raided in July. But the gang continued operating, Yott said in the affidavit.

Agents made nearly three dozen drug purchases from October 2002 through last week, the affidavit said.

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