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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 30, 2014**

**Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson and NYPD  
Commissioner William J. Bratton Announce a 558-Count Indictment Against  
Six Firearms Traffickers**

*Seven-Month Joint Investigation Breaks Up the “Iron Pipeline” from Georgia to Brooklyn*

**Brooklyn, NY-** Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson and New York Police Department Commissioner William J. Bratton today announced a 558-count indictment against six firearms traffickers who conspired to sell large numbers of firearms obtained in Georgia and destined for the streets of Brooklyn. Those indicted include Michael Brewer Quick, Rodney Cantrell Brewer, Emmanuel Caswell, Aliya Camille Dowell, Albert Ellis Pless, and Marcus White. The apprehension of the six defendants marks the conclusion of a joint long-term investigation conducted by NYPD’s Firearms Investigations Unit and the DA’s Major Narcotics Investigations Bureau.

“Our joint investigation with the NYPD has put an end to a major gun trafficking operation that brought illegal firearms to Brooklyn from Georgia. The apparently easy accessibility of these weapons threatened the safety and security of our Brooklyn communities. We will remain vigilant in the fight against the trafficking and sale of illegal guns,” said District Attorney Ken Thompson.

Police Commissioner William J. Bratton said, “Guns sold illegally find their way into the hands of criminals and often destroy lives. This family of gun traffickers did not hesitate to distribute illegal guns in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, but thanks to the hard work of the investigators and prosecutors involved, this pipeline of firearms has been shut down. I want to thank the Organized Crime Control Bureau, Firearms Investigations Unit, and the Kings Country District Attorney’s office for bringing these criminals to justice.”

The indictment alleges that Michael Brewer Quick, who has residences in LaGrange, Georgia and on Staten Island, conspired with five individuals, including his wife and two of his uncles, to amass large numbers of firearms in Georgia and nearby, transport them from Georgia to the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, and sell them at a huge profit. During the period indicated in the

indictment, defendant Quick made a total of 13 car trips from Georgia to Canarsie up the I-95 corridor, transporting as many as 25 firearms at a time, and sold them to an NYPD undercover police officer at the corner of Foster Avenue and East 96<sup>th</sup> Street. His wife Aliyah Camille Dowell, uncles Rodney Cantrell Brewer and Albert Ellis Pless, and associates Emmanuel Caswell and Marcus White, conspired with defendant Quick to collect the firearms in and around Georgia, and to wire monies from New York City to Georgia to fund the initial purchases of the guns in Georgia for resale in New York.

The firearms, many of which were loaded at the time of the sales, included an AR-15, a MAC-11, two TEC-9 automatic weapons, and 151 varieties of pistols and revolvers. The investigation established that Quick and his co-conspirators were in constant communication about the logistics of the enterprise throughout the period of the conspiracy, conferring about the need to acquire weapons that are easily concealed during transport, the terms of price negotiation with Georgia suppliers, and the wide profit margin between Georgia and New York. The investigation revealed, for example, that a 9mm purchased in Georgia for \$200 could be easily resold in Brooklyn for \$1,000.

Defendants Quick, Brewer and Dowell are currently in custody in Kings County, and defendants Caswell, Pless and White are currently in custody in LaGrange, Georgia awaiting extradition on arrest warrants generated by the indictment.

The NYPD Firearms Investigations Unit and the Major Narcotics Investigations Bureau partnered to develop an investigation that would hold criminally responsible not only the individuals who were selling the firearms in Brooklyn, but also the individuals who were employed in Georgia to locate the firearms and facilitate their purchase for resale in Brooklyn at a profit.

The case was investigated by Detective John Edgar under the supervision of Lieutenant Michael Jennings and Sergeant Donald Morgan, NYPD Organized Crime Control Bureau, Firearms Investigations Unit. Assistant District Attorney Tara Lenich is prosecuting the case for the Major Narcotics Investigations Bureau under the Supervision of Chief Marc Fliedner and William E. Schaeffer, Chief of the Investigations Division.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.

### **Defendants and Charges:**

The following Defendants face charges of Criminal Possession of a Firearm-First Degree; and Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree:

Michael Brewer Quick DOB: 10/25/81  
Rodney Cantrell Brewer DOB: 01/19/65  
Emmanuel Caswell DOB: 12/09/77  
Albert Ellis Pless DOB: 08/11/56  
Marcus White DOB: 01/03/84

The following Defendant faces a charge of Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree  
Aliyah Camille Dowell DOB: 02/20/82

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