

Twenty Charged for Criminal Activity in Colleton County

Walterboro, S.C. – As part of an effort to address some unresolved criminal activity in the Walterboro area, specifically dating back to a November 2009 drive by shooting, South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster announced this morning that the state grand jury has indicted 20 people on 65 counts related to criminal gang activity. As of this morning, 15 had been arrested. The indictments occurred on Tuesday, June 22, but were kept sealed under court order through yesterday.

Three of those arrested have been charged with murder, including a 16-year old on three counts. Other charges include criminal conspiracy, assault and battery with intent to kill, perjury and arson, among others.

Walterboro Police Chief Otis Rhodes said, “Everyone has been working so hard to get these criminals off the streets, and SLED’s presence in the area has been a formidable addition to those efforts. Collaborating with them, the Colleton County Sheriff’s Office, citizens who have come forward with information, and other new measures we have put in place over the last five months, have all helped us get to this critical point today.”

Bond hearings for the suspects are scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday morning at the Richland County Courthouse. McMaster has stressed that each of these suspects is presumed innocent until proven otherwise in a court of law.

Walterboro Mayor Bill Young commented, “These arrests demonstrate the significant strides being taken to reduce the number of crimes in our community and to ensure that our citizens and visitors are safe. We can see more light at the end of the tunnel now, and that’s a great relief to everyone in the area.”

The suspects include Kaylon Ramar Aiken (23), Laron Bennett (23), Danziel Akeem Chapman, also known as “Weezy” (20), Ashay Shabira Daniels (juvenile), Elijah Deal (28), Shaquille O’Neal Drayton, also known as “Shack” (16), Derrick Eleazor (27), Quinton John Fishburne, also known as “Q” (29), Vera Ford (45), Latrell Bernard Fryar, also known as “Trell” (20), Amani Sherell Hills (age unknown), Deshuan Quatrell Holmes, also known as “Dizzle” (21), Gregory Lamar Middleton (22), Quoteas Sylvester Nesbitt (25), Preston Tremaine Roberts (20), Hascale Jevor Simmons, also known as “Perlo” (27), Phyllis Elaine Simmons (age unknown), Courtney Denard Singleton, also known as “C-Lo” (19), Phillip Dustin Singleton (23), and Terrance White (26).

A large number of agencies had a hand in these arrests, including the 14th Circuit Solicitor’s Office, the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the South Carolina Highway Patrol, the Colleton County Sheriff’s Office, and the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services, in addition to the City of Walterboro Public Safety Office, led by Chief Rhodes.