

Ray City and Valdosta Man Sentenced to Prison in Separate Project Safe Neighborhoods Cases

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

MACON, Georgia – Demetris Gervone Bellamy (32) of Ray City and Shi-Young Lamar Sharper (39) are among three defendants with lengthy criminal histories, who were found guilty by federal juries of illegally possessing firearms resulting. The convictions and sentencing are the result from Project Safe Neighborhoods investigations in South Georgia. They were sentenced to prison Wednesday, January 17th.

Bellamy was sentenced to serve 260 months in prison. His term is to be followed by five years of supervised release after he was convicted Aug. 17, 2023. Demetris was found guilty of one count of Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, one count of Possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine and one count of Possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Lamar Sharper was sentenced to serve 120 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. He was convicted July 26, 2023, of one count of Illegal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

The third man punished January 17th, Joshua Granger (35) of Orlando, Florida, was sentenced to serve 120 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release after he was convicted Aug. 16, 2023. Granger was convicted of one count of illegal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

U.S. District Judge Hugh Lawson presided over today's sentencings. All three men were sentenced in the U.S. Courthouse in Macon.

After they were sentenced, U.S. Attorney of Middle Georgia Peter D. Leary stated, "These cases involved armed defendants with criminal histories who repeatedly violated the law, brought to federal attention as a result of the Valdosta Division's Project Safe Neighborhoods Task Force. Our office is focused on reducing crime in our communities; holding repeat and violent offenders accountable is one part of a combined community and law enforcement effort to address violent crime through Project Safe Neighborhoods."

Rich Bilson, Supervisory Senior Resident Agent of FBI Atlanta's Valdosta office commented, "These sentences are a direct result of what good multi-jurisdictional partnerships and communication can accomplish. We are grateful for all the hard work by our partners that allowed these repeat offenders to be removed from the streets before they could commit any worse crimes."

Lowndes County Sheriff Ashley Paulk said, "The federal, state and local collaboration through Project Safe Neighborhoods helps us get violent, repeat criminals off the streets. We are thankful for this continuing partnership," after the sentencing.

For Lanier County News (LCN) readers, who would more information about



the Bellamy case, you are asked to go on-line and visit <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdga/pr/jury-convicts-ray-city-man-armed-meth-trafficking/>; for information about the Granger case, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdga/pr/florida-man-convicted-illegally-possessing-gun-valdosta-psn-case/>; and for information about the Sharper case, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdga/pr/jury-convicts-felon-illegally-possessing-gun/>.

The Bellamy and Granger cases were investigated by the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Hannah Couch and Criminal Chief Leah McEwen prosecuted the cases for the Government.

The Sharper case was investigated by the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office and FBI. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Monica Daniels and Sonja Profit prosecuted the case for the Government.

The U.S. Attorney's Office of Middle Georgia wants the public to know that these cases were prosecuted as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), the centerpiece of the Department of Justice's violent crime reduction efforts. PSN is an evidence-based program proven to be effective at reducing violent crime by bringing together a broad spectrum of stakeholders to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in the community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. On May 26, 2021, the Department launched a violent crime reduction strategy strengthening PSN based on these core principles: fostering trust and legitimacy in our communities; supporting community-based organizations that help prevent violence from occurring in the first place; setting focused and strategic enforcement priorities; and measuring the results.

Doughtery and Lee County Investigation Leads to 10 Arrests



By Carol A. Gasser Moore

ALBANY, Georgia – There has been multiple arrests in a joint investigation into a conspiracy to traffic drugs and firearms throughout Albany. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) made the announcement this week. According to their news release, the GBI, partnered with the Albany Dougherty County Drug Unit (ADDU), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to investigate, arrest the individuals suspected to be involved, and charge them.

The list of individuals arrested includes:

- Roy Billingsley (33) of Leesburg, Georgia - Trafficking in cocaine, illegal drugs, marijuana, or methamphetamine and Conspiracy to Traffic Methamphetamine (arrested 12/7/23)

- Rahseen Garrett (28) of Albany, Georgia - Conspiracy to Traffic Methamphetamine, possession of a firearm during the commission of certain crimes, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon (arrested 12/7/23)

- Rico Lashaun Hall (30) of Albany, Georgia - Trafficking in cocaine, illegal drugs, marijuana, or methamphetamine and Conspiracy to Traffic Methamphetamine (arrested 12/7/23)

- Mitchell Hilson Jr. (28) of Albany, Georgia - nine counts of trafficking in cocaine, illegal drugs, marijuana, or methamphetamine, five counts of possession of a firearm during the commission of certain crimes, and four counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon (arrested 12/7/23)

- Bernard Holsey (26) of Albany, Georgia - Conspiracy to Traffic Methamphetamine (arrested 12/7/23)

- Konterrious James (42) of Albany, Georgia - two counts of Conspiracy to Traffic Methamphetamine (arrested 12/7/23)

- Marcena Jordan (30) of Albany, Georgia - Conspiracy to Traffic Methamphetamine (arrested 12/7/23)

- Jessica Raines (38) of Leesburg, Georgia - Trafficking in cocaine, illegal drugs,

marijuana, or methamphetamine and Conspiracy to Traffic Methamphetamine (arrested 12/7/23)

- Devin Randall (28) of Albany, Georgia - Trafficking in cocaine, illegal drugs, marijuana, or methamphetamine, four counts of conspiracy to Traffic Methamphetamine, four counts of possession of a firearm during the commission of certain crimes, and four counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon (arrested 12/7/23)

- Brennan Woods (33) of Albany, Georgia, was arrested and charged in this investigation with Trafficking in cocaine, illegal drugs, marijuana, or methamphetamine (arrested 12/20/23).

According to the GBI, two additional people are wanted. Both have active arrest warrants in this investigation. Those two people are:

- Wade Tucker (38) has active arrest warrants for trafficking suspected cocaine, illegal drugs, suspected marijuana, or suspected methamphetamine.

- Terrance Davis (26) has active arrest warrants for possession of a firearm during the commission of certain crimes, possession of firearm by first offender probationer, and theft by receiving stolen property.

Information about the rests indicates that the GBI, DEA, Georgia State Patrol (GSP), the Lee County Sheriff's Office (LCSO), the Colquitt County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), and ADDU executed search warrants on North Slappey Boulevard, Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia. Police executed several arrest warrants throughout Albany, Georgia on December 7, 2023.

During the 6-month joint investigation prior to the arrests, the agencies located 27 firearms, including shotguns, handguns, and rifles. The items were seized, and the GBI indicates that several of the firearms were fully automatic weapons. They also located over 1,830 grams of suspected methamphetamine, 2.3 grams of suspected heroin, and numerous suspected oxycodone pills which were seized.

The GBI states that this investigation was conducted to make an impact on the current street level drug distribution and violent crime within Albany, Dougherty County, Georgia, and to promote a safer place for productive citizens.

The Southwestern Regional Drug Enforcement Office (SRDE) covers a 42-county area in southwest Georgia. For this reason, the public's help is requested. The Southwestern Drug Enforcement Office (SDEO) needs your help. If you have information related to drug activity or have information about the location of Wade Tucker or Terrance Davis, you are encouraged to call the drug enforcement office at 229-420-1254. Anonymous tips can also be submitted by calling 1-800-597-TIPS (8477), online at <https://gbi.georgia.gov/submit-tips-online/>, or by downloading the See Something, Send Something mobile app.

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