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Project Longevity

Project Longevity is a statewide initiative designed to reduce gun violence in Connecticut's three major cities. The initiative seeks to convey a moral objective -- gun violence must stop -- while offering support and outreach to individuals who express serious interest in ending gun violence, ending recidivism and leading productive lives. An essential part of the group violence reduction strategy is quarterly forums known as Call-Ins. A cross-section of individuals who are involved with active groups are invited to a Call-In where they are given a message that if heeded will save lives. A cadre of community members and law enforcement express their collective disdain for the level of violence in their community and inform the individuals of the law enforcement community's determination to concentrate their efforts on the most violent group. The attendees are also offered help with building a positive lifestyle and are acknowledged as a priority amongst social service providers. The project officially launched in Hartford on April 1, 2014, with Hartford's first Call-In.

Approximately 20 individuals were invited to the April meeting and asked to share the Project Longevity message with their crews and groups.

Several weeks after attending a Call-In a group known as "the Coop/Lowrise projects," from the 500 Block of Garden Street, had been identified as being involved in multiple shootings. A collaborative law enforcement operation, which involved the FBI, DEA and HPD, ensued as a result. Various investigative tactics were pursued, which ultimately revealed that numerous narcotics and firearms violations were being committed by many "Coop" members. Several operations were initiated, resulting in Federal and State arrest and search warrants that led to the confiscation of numerous firearms as well as a large amount of narcotics and money. The evidence showed Coop members were responsible for 17% of the city's firearms-involved incidents of violence. The area of Garden Street consequently enjoyed several months without a gunfire incident.

The following list contains the names of members of this group arrested for felony charges, which took place following their self-selection and continued perpetration of violence. **Offenses are alleged unless otherwise noted.**

Arrested:

1. **James Dudley**, aka “Pooka” – Federal Firearms and Narcotics arrests. Several state charges for assault in the first degree.
2. **Tyvonne Gooden**, aka “T-Good” – Federal (Massachusetts) Firearms and Narcotics arrests. Several state charges for assault in the first degree.
3. **Kevin Betts**, aka “KK” – Federal Firearms and Narcotics arrests (pleaded guilty and awaiting sentencing)
4. **Courtney Gravely**, aka “Ceaz” – Federal Narcotics Trafficking Charges (pleaded guilty and awaiting sentencing)
5. **Gary Pierce**, aka “GP” – Federal Firearms arrest (pleaded guilty and awaiting sentencing)
6. **Keith Shepard**, aka “Shep” – Federal Firearms and Narcotics arrests
7. **Courtney Byrd**, aka Buck – Federal Firearms and Narcotics arrest
8. **Shannon Davis**, aka “A-Wack” – State Home Invasion Charges, Attempt Assault 1st
9. **Trevaughn Washington**, aka “Tre” – State Robbery First with a Firearms Charge
10. **Chris Farley**, aka “Marley” – State Robbery First with a Firearms Charge
11. **Shomari Gooden**, aka “Mickey” – State Criminal Attempt Assault in the First Degree Charges
12. **Jaheem Harris**, aka “JahBlack”- State Firearms and Narcotics arrest
13. **Davon Gill** – State Narcotics Charges
14. **Troyian Coleman** aka “Gucci” – State Narcotics Sale Charges

The second Call-In was held on August 13, 2014.¹ Subsequent to this Call-In a group known as the “Dumouts” was involved in firearm related violence. The Hartford Police Department along with various law enforcement partners initiated several investigations, which again resulted in multiple felony arrests. In addition to the below listed parties, five (5) juveniles were arrested on firearms charges, including one of which who was charged in the shooting of two victims. A large number of misdemeanor arrests were also made during this time. **All offenses are alleged unless otherwise noted.**

Arrested:

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| 1. Cleveland Brown | Murder, Assault 1 |
| 2. Kevan Simmons aka “Low” | Assault 1 (sentenced to 17 years) |
| 3. George Harris aka “Twin” | Interfering with Police (sentenced to 2 years) |
| 4. Brandon Dakers aka “Doe boy” | Assault 2 (sentenced 2 years, execution suspended) |
| 5. Daquan Barnes | Pistol without Permit |
| 6. Shaquill Strickland aka “Quille” | Sale of Narcotics |
| 7. Curtis Towns
(Twenty years, eight years suspended) | Pistol w/o Permit, Burglary 1, Robbery 1, Assault 2 |
| 8. Jalen Booker | Carjacking, Robbery 2, Pursuit |
| 9. Kareem Mack aka “Killa” | Pistol w/o Permit, Burglary 1, Robbery 1, Assault 2 |
| 10. Frank Garay aka “Playboy”
suspended) | Robbery 1, Larceny 5 (10 years, 18 months suspended) |
| 11. Allen Hodges | Pistol w/o Permit, Burglary 1, Robbery 1, Assault 2 |

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| 12. Dionte Wilson aka “Tae Roc” | VOP (1 year suspended, 18 months probation) |
| 13. Chris Olds | Robbery 2 |
| 14. Shaquar Anderson aka “Stick” | Pistol without Permit |
| 15. Andre Rodriguez aka “Flip” | Criminal Possession Firearm |

These lists are not a comprehensive summary of the Hartford Police Department’s arrest activity that occurred from the initial Call-In to present. Dozens of individuals by virtue of their own violent activity place themselves under the focus of the law enforcement community and once their criminal involvement is exposed, whether direct or indirect, they sustain the consequences applicable to their level of offense which includes criminal arrest, prosecution and a period of incarceration.