

**CITY OF MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE**

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MILWAUKEE POLICE, ATF ROUND UP GANG MEMBERS

In the early morning hours of September 30, 2008, law enforcement officers from the Milwaukee Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the State of Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation, along with the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, conducted a round-up of members of a street gang known as the Simon City Royals.

The Simon City Royals are believed to have originated in the mid-1960s in the area of Simon Park, located in Chicago. In the late 1980s, a faction of the gang was formed in the Milwaukee area. In 1997, following two gang precipitated homicides, the Milwaukee Police Department dismantled the leadership of the Milwaukee Royals.

In 2005, members of the Milwaukee Police Department began a new investigation into the reemerging gang. On Easter Sunday of that year, one of its members (while on the run from the MPD) shot and killed a Florida police officer. In August of 2006, a joint MPD/ATF round-up of 15 members of the Simon City Royals was conducted. They were charged and convicted of crimes that included the distribution of cocaine and marijuana, aggravated battery, felon in possession of a firearm, armed robbery & armed burglary.

Based upon information developed since that round-up, investigators from the MPD & ATF sought, and working with the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, obtained arrest warrants under the Wisconsin Organized Crime Control Act (W.O.C.C.A.). These charges/statutes are similar to Federal R.I.C.O. laws and include predicate acts of racketeering and loan sharking.

Today's law enforcement activities included the capture of seven of the gang's members and the charging of eight additional members who already were serving prison time for other crimes.

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