

## **FBI/U.S. Attorney's Office – 39ers Gang**

In 2010, the FBI's New Orleans Gang Task Force (NOGTF) began investigating heroin trafficking in the Upper Ninth Ward of New Orleans. The FBI used a wide variety of investigative techniques (including witness interviews, surveillance, historical research, and five federal Title III wiretaps) to determine that kilogram amounts of heroin were being imported from Houston, Texas, and then distributed by a violent drug-trafficking organization associated with the Florida Housing Development and a gang known as the G-Strip, that operated on Gallier Street in the Upper Ninth Ward.

The FBI then learned that the Ninth Ward gang had formed an alliance with a violent street gang known as "3 and G," which operated near the corner of Third and S. Galvez in Uptown New Orleans. The amalgamation of these two groups, one from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward and one from the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, became known as the 39ers. This

“super-gang” shared drugs, weapons, hiding spots, information, and, importantly, they began sharing rivals.

The 39ers’ rivalries with groups from the Desire Housing Development, the Press Park area, and the Calliope Projects, resulted in multiple violent shoot-outs between 2009 and 2012. During this time frame, it is believed that these rivalries were responsible for over 20 homicides and multiple other non-fatal shootings in New Orleans.

Following prosecution in federal court, one of the 39er gang leaders began cooperating with the government and confessed to multiple crimes, including murder. Later, other gunmen for the gang also began cooperating with the government. From their cooperation, the government was able to solve over a dozen murders. Here are a few examples:

On October 11, 2010, members of the 39ers travelled all around the city of New Orleans doing surveillance on a rival gang member from the Desire Housing Development named Elton Fields. Members of the gang followed Fields until he parked his

vehicle near the intersection of St. Bernard Avenue and N. Miro, at which point two 39ers exited their vehicle and approached Fields while opening fire with a handgun and an assault rifle. Fields suffered 29 gunshot wounds and died from his injuries on the scene. Three members of the 39ers admitted to or were convicted of participating in this brazen daylight killing.

On December 20, 2010, members of the 39ers stalked a rival gang member from the Calliope Projects named Jerome Hampton, aka "Man Man." Eventually, five of the 39ers located Hampton at an apartment complex in New Orleans East, and they waited in the parking lot to ambush him. Hampton was leaving the apartment complex with his friend Renetta Lowe, who was a popular rapper known as "Magnolia Shorty." When Hampton and Lowe approached the exit of the apartment complex, the 39ers used their vehicle to block their path. Four 39ers jumped out of their car, collectively armed with two assault rifles and two handguns, and opened fire. Hampton and Lowe died on the scene after being shot multiple times. The New Orleans Police Department collected over

50 shell casings from the murder scene. Five members of the 39ers admitted to or were convicted of participating in this brutal double murder.

On the morning of September 14, 2011, Michael Marshall was repeatedly shot and killed while waiting for the scrapyards where he worked on Poland Avenue to open. Marshall had been working as an informant for the DEA, and the FBI's investigation revealed that three members of the 39ers had accepted a contract to kill Marshall on behalf of a heroin trafficker who suspected Marshall of cooperating with law enforcement. Three members of the 39ers admitted to or were convicted of participating in this brazen daylight assassination.

In January of 2017, ten 39ers went to trial after being indicted for participation in a violent RICO conspiracy, drug-trafficking, 14 homicides, and multiple non-fatal assaults by firearm. After six weeks of trial, all ten 39ers were found guilty of being members of the violent super-gang, and eight of the defendants received life

sentences based on their participation in multiple homicides and drug-trafficking crimes.

It is my privilege and honor to recognize the outstanding work performed by the members of the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office.