



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KEVIN R. STEELE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

EDWARD F. McCANN, JR.

FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COURTHOUSE

P.O. BOX 311

NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

19404-0311

MARK A. BERNSTIEL

CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

JESSE S. KING

CHIEF OF STAFF

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FAX

COUNTY DETECTIVE BUREAU

(610) 278-3090

(610) 278-3095

(610) 278-3368

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kate Delano 610-312-3487 cell

THREE PHILADELPHIANS ARRESTED FOR TRAFFICKING 37 FIREARMS WITH BUYS IN BUCKS, PHILADELPHIA AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES



Tyrone Gresham (left), Nasim Smalls (center), Aaron Walker (right)

[Click here to read the criminal complaint](#)

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (July 13, 2021) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announced the arrest of Tyron Gresham, 24; Nasim Smalls, 24; and Aaron Walker, 20, all of Philadelphia, for illegally obtaining and reselling 37 firearms in Montgomery, Bucks and Philadelphia counties, as well as one additional attempted purchase.

In total, the investigation found that Gresham purchased these firearms from Dec. 19, 2019 (soon after his 21st birthday) through May 13, 2021, with the additional attempted purchase occurring on May 18, 2021. Of the 37 firearms purchased by Gresham, 17 were purchased in Bucks County, 16 in Philadelphia and four in Montgomery County. Smalls and Walker, who are brothers, are not legally allowed to purchase or possess firearms.

Just three of the 37 firearms have been recovered by police. One firearm was recovered on July 1, 2021 (firearm purchased May 11, 2021) by Michigan State Police when they stopped a vehicle that was stolen out of New York state. The other two were recovered by Philadelphia Police during separate arrests on June 5, 2021 (firearm purchased May 10, 2021) and June 13, 2021 (firearm purchased March 30, 2021).

The investigation began in May 2021. The Montgomery County Detective Bureau initiated the investigation into Gresham's firearms purchases after multiple red flags indicated that he was involved in "straw purchasing" firearms. A "straw purchase" is when a person with a clean background purchases firearms specifically on behalf of another person to conceal the true ownership of the firearm. Persons who are unable to legally purchase a firearm would include convicted felons, domestic violence misdemeanants, juveniles and mentally ill individuals.

"The three recovered guns of the 37 purchased by Gresham shows just how far and wide the impact of gun trafficking and straw purchases can be. These guns travel quickly from the original purchaser to a criminal, who very soon uses it in illegal activity," said DA Steele. "Illegal firearms on our streets are a significant threat to public safety and should concern every law-abiding citizen."

The investigation was led by the Montgomery County Detective Bureau's Violent Crime Unit (VCU) with assistance from the Hatfield Township Police, FBI Bucks and Montgomery County Safe Streets Task Force, Bensalem Township Police, Philadelphia Police, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Pennsylvania State Police. The investigation used surveillance, cellphone analysis, review of federal firearms forms and EROS electronic firearms records, social media analysis, search warrants, interviews and other methods of investigation to uncover the participants of the gun trafficking organization, which besides Gresham, who made all of the purchases, included Smalls and Walker, who directed which firearms to purchase and handled the sales of the firearms to other individuals. For many of the purchases, Smalls, Walker or both were in the vehicle while Gresham was in the gun shop making the purchase.

The defendants were each charged with multiple felony counts of Corrupt Organizations, Conspiracy, Materially False Statements re Firearms Sale/Transfer, Unlawful Transfer of a Firearm, Dealing in the Proceeds of Unlawful Activities, Criminal Use of Communications Facility, Unsworn Falsification to Authorities and multiple related offenses.

Gresham, Smalls and Walker were arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Francis J. Lawrence, who set bail for these defendants at: \$1 million cash for Gresham and \$500,000 cash each for Smalls and Walker. The defendants failed to make bail and were remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. The preliminary hearing for all three defendants is scheduled for 9 a.m., July 21, 2021 by Magisterial District Judge William Maruszczak.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Allison Ruth and Samantha Arena of the Firearms Unit.

Approved for release:
Kevin R. Steele

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.