

Officials arrest 141 fugitives in statewide sweep

Investigators round up violent offenders

By Luke Broadwater
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last week during a four-day statewide sweep of violent offenders, called "Operation Safe Holiday." The sweep by federal and state investigators resulted in 141 arrests in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Prince George's and Baltimore counties.

"Every violent criminal in jail is one less criminal who can wreak havoc on our streets this holiday season," Maryland U.S. Attorney Rod Rosenstein said in a statement.

Of the 141 fugitives apprehended in the operation, 10 were arrested on murder or attempted-murder warrants; 49 were arrested on warrants charging them with robbery,

assault, or other violent crimes; 11 were arrested on sex-offense warrants; and 11 were arrested in connection with narcotics offenses, federal prosecutors said. There were also 10 gang-related arrests, including Hernandez, who is suspected of being a member of the Toone Street Boys gang.

He is charged with the first-degree murder of Estefany Gonzales, 16, who was shot to death on March 30 in the 6300 block of Toone Street in Baltimore.

Because of the arrests, more than 214 cases have now been closed, prosecutors said.

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Founder of Oyster King 1, an organization dedicated to restoring native Chesapeake Bay oysters Shady Side, Maryland

2007 Winner of the Year

Juan Hernandez, 19 — a suspected gang member from Dundalk — was wanted in a murder in Baltimore City.

William Terry, 27, was wanted in the shooting of Baltimore City police officers.

So was Thomas River, 22. All three men were arrested

REGION

CRIME WATCH

Police arrest, charge 2 in October homicide

Baltimore police said yesterday that they arrested a man and his girlfriend and charged them in connection with a fatal shooting in October in the northeastern part of the city.

The victim, Marlon Beckford, 31, of the Bronx, N.Y., was fatally shot while sitting in a car with a woman and her 10-month-old son early Oct. 30. Beckford died at Johns Hopkins Hospital that day, police said. The woman and child were unharmed.

City police said that an "extensive investigation" led detectives to two suspects. Early yesterday, members of the Baltimore region's warrant apprehension task force arrested Lance H. Walker, 28, and Nadirah V. Moreno, 31, at their home in the 9800 block of Redwing Drive in Perry Hall.

Both were charged with first- and second-degree murder, police said. Police declined to discuss a possible motive in the killing.

According to court records, Walker has four convictions for drug possession with intent to distribute, one in 1998, another in 1999, and two in 2002. He also has an illegal-handgun conviction from 1998, court records show.

The steepest sentence Walker received in any of his convictions came in October 2001 in Baltimore Circuit Court. He pleaded guilty to drug possession with intent to distribute and received a 12-year sentence, with seven years suspended, followed by three years of probation.

[GUS G. SENTEMENTES]

Police sweep nets 141 fugitives

A four-day law enforcement sweep in the Baltimore area has netted 141 fugitives, including 10 wanted on charges of murder or attempted murder, local and federal officials announced yesterday.

During "Operation Safe Holiday," more than 100 law enforcement officers fanned out across Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Prince George's counties last week seeking about 800 people charged with violent crimes and fugitives who had prior arrests or convictions for violent crimes.

Of the 141 fugitives, they arrested 49 wanted on charges of robbery, assault or other violent crimes; 11 on sex offenses; and 11 on drug offenses, officials said. Most of the fugitives were wanted on charges in Baltimore.

The city has more than 50,000 fugitives, officials said, most for failing to appear in court or on charges related to theft.

[MATTHEW DOLAN]

Alonso, who is pushing to open 24 combination schools, says the reconfiguration gives teachers the time to re-engage troubled students sooner rather than waiting until freshman year. It also eliminates the tough transition between middle and high school, supporters say.

Research shows that students start slipping off the path toward high school graduation as early as sixth grade with poor attendance, course failures and behavioral problems that grow worse with time.

"Instead of just four years to get students ready for graduation, these schools have another three," said Doug MacIver, principal research scientist at the Center for Social Organization of Schools at The Johns Hopkins University.

Teachers can get to know the students and their families. This is a very promising direction for urban districts, where lots of students are living in poverty."

In addition, he said, this grouping allows talented middle schoolers to take high school courses and older students to mentor younger ones.

Some parents, however, express reservations about sending their sixth-graders to a school also hous-