

PRESS RELEASE

‘21st & Vietnam’ Defendant Sentenced to 16 Years for Fentanyl Trafficking and Assault While Armed

Thursday, December 11, 2025

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Columbia

WASHINGTON – Trevon Palmer, 30, a key member of the violent D.C. drug trafficking crew known as “21st and Vietnam,” was sentenced today in U.S. District Court to 192 months in prison for his role in running an open-air drug market in Northeast Washington, announced U.S. Attorney Jeanine Ferris Pirro.

Palmer pleaded guilty on Sept. 12, 2025, to conspiracy to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl and to aggravated assault while armed. In addition to the 192-month prison term, Judge Beryl A. Howell ordered Palmer to serve five years of supervised release.

Joining U.S. Attorney Pirro in the announcement were FBI Assistant Director in Charge Darren B. Cox of the Washington Field Office, DEA Special Agent in Charge Christopher C. Goumenis of the Drug Enforcement Administration Washington Division, and Chief Pamela A. Smith of the Metropolitan Police Department.

According to court documents, the 21st & Vietnam crew centered their open-air drug market near the intersection of 21st Street and Maryland Avenue, NE, and used an apartment building on the 1900 block of I Street as their base of operations. The crew distributed significant quantities of narcotics, including crack cocaine, fentanyl, methamphetamine, phencyclidine (PCP), and n-n-dimethylpentylone (boot).

Palmer was one of the most prolific sellers of narcotics. Between late November 2023 and March 2024, Palmer made 12 sales – totalling about 300 grams of fentanyl – to undercover agents. Palmer also sold crack cocaine and methamphetamine.

On April 19, 2024, Palmer and co-defendant Briyon Shuford sought to target members of a rival crew. As they drove in a stolen car midday along the 1200 block of

Mt. Olivet Road, NE, they shot and injured four people near a convenience store. Shuford was sentenced to 161 months for drug conspiracy and the drive-by shooting.

This investigation was a multi-agency effort between the Violent Crime Investigations Team of the Violent Crime Suppression Division of the Metropolitan Police Department, the FBI Washington Field Office's Cross-Border Task Force, the Drug Enforcement Administration's Washington Division, the District of Columbia National Guard Counter Drug Program, and the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andrea Duvall and Solomon Eppel of the Violent Crime Reduction and Narcotics Trafficking Section.

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