

Bridgeport 'inspirational speaker' charged with masterminding area robberies

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A Bridgeport man who billed himself as an "inspiration speaker" to inner-city youths was arrested by Greenwich police Monday and charged as the mastermind behind string of robberies throughout the region.

Gregory Jetter, 48, of 182 Wheeler Ave., Bridgeport, was taken into custody at a federal courthouse in New Haven where he was appearing on an unrelated violation of probation charge.

He was charged with first-degree robbery, first-degree conspiracy at robbery and first-degree larceny, police said.

Jetter's arrest comes after several months of a multijurisdictional armed-robbery investigation into incidents in Fairfield and New Haven counties, police said. Greenwich police were the first to identify Jetter as being involved in the string of robberies, when they said he was the getaway driver in a July 2009 robbery of Estate Treasures in Riverside. During the incident, Lakeem Jetter, 19, and [Moses McCree](#), 20, were charged with stealing more than \$250,000 worth of jewelry at gunpoint.

Although initial reports indicated that McCree was the mastermind to the robberies, Detective [Pasquale Iorfino](#) said further investigation revealed [Gregory Jetter](#), a convicted felon with an extensive arrest history, was the brain behind the operation.


Jetter used "being an inspiration speaker for inner-city children to draw in troubled teens," said Iorfino.


Iorfino said once teens and young men became part of his group, called the [McCree Foundation Inc.](#), he led them down a dangerous path.


"They thought this guy would lead them down a positive and prosperous road, but he quickly changed direction to a life of crime under (his) direction," said Iorfino. Police said Gregory Jetter is related to Lakeem Jetter and has a personal relationship with Moses McCree as well.

On the McCree Foundation Web site, the mission statement says the group is "focused on the improvement of the inner-city minority areas."

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Lakeem Jetter is listed as director and McCree the owner and president. Gregory Jetter is labeled as the inspirational speaker/director.

"The mission is to improve and empower the community," reads the statement. "The goal is to make the world a more positive place for everyone. We will complete this mission and accomplish this goal by promoting peace, love, and goodwill to all."

The foundation is registered as a business in Bridgeport, according to state commercial recording division records posted online. The Web site also lists a mailing address and solicits donations.

In a recent motion, prosecutors wrote that all three suspects in the Greenwich robbery made calls in the vicinity of Manhattan's Diamond District following the robbery. The jewelry was never recovered after the crime, police said.

Police said Jetter orchestrated the theft of a car in Bridgeport the night before the robbery, which was driven by Lakeem Jetter and McCree, to Estate Treasures to commit the robbery. That car was left in the parking lot as the two young men fled, getting in a separate car allegedly driven by Gregory Jetter, who police said was responsible for "disposing" of the jewelry.

According to the warrant, the Estate Treasures robbery was the second in a string of five similar incidents believed to have been planned by Jetter and others in Greenwich, Fairfield, Orange, Stratford and Monroe.

Iorfino said he believed Gregory Jetter would face additional charges from other jurisdictions in the coming weeks.

Jetter is being held overnight at [Greenwich Police headquarters](#) on \$250,000 bond. He is scheduled to be arraigned in [Superior Court](#) in Stamford Tuesday morning before returning to federal custody.

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