

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Attention: News Director  
For Immediate Release  
February 21, 2007**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
DAVID L. HUBER  
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Western District of Kentucky**

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**FEDERAL GRAND JURY CHARGES CONVICTED FELON WITH  
DRUG TRAFFICKING AND POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today that a federal Grand Jury in Louisville **returned an Indictment** charging **VERMICKI SAN JUAN WATTS**, age 32, of 3305 Oriole Court, Owensboro, Kentucky, Daviess County, with possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

The Indictment alleges that on or about October 24, 2006, **Watts**, a previously convicted felon, was found in the possession of a quantity of crack cocaine that he intended to distribute. The Indictment further alleges that **Watts** had in his possession a firearm, that is a Taurus Model PT-145 .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol and ammunition. **Watts** is also charged with being a previously convicted drug trafficker, (2002 case out of Vanderburgh County, Indiana, Case #92D02-0201-FD-59, dealing in marijuana, a Class D felony) which would prohibit his possession of any firearm.

**\*\*\* MORE \*\*\***

In the event of a conviction, the maximum potential penalties are 30 years imprisonment, a \$2,250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 6 years.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ann Claire Phillips, and it was investigated by the Owensboro Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

**Watts** is scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on March 22, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., in Owensboro, Kentucky.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

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The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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DLH:ACP:ls:2/15/07