

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
March 19, 2007**



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

**Contact: Sandy Focken
(502) 582-5911**

**BOWLING GREEN DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO 9 YEARS
FOR SELLING GUNS, POWDER AND “CRACK” COCAINE**

– Street value of drugs \$33,090

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 that **JULIO ORTIZ**, age 38, of 5540 Louisville Road, Bowling Green, Kentucky, Warren County, **was sentenced** to 9 years for selling guns, powder cocaine, and crack cocaine. United States District Judge Thomas B. Russell, also imposed a term of 5 years’ of supervised release. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

Ortiz was originally indicted in August 2006 for distributing 50 grams or more of crack cocaine and 500 grams or more of powder cocaine. The Superseding Information to which **Ortiz** pleaded guilty in November 2006 charged **Ortiz** with two additional counts of selling handguns which he could not do as a convicted felon, and two more counts of distributing powder and crack cocaine.

In all, **Ortiz** distributed a total of 1111.5 grams of powder cocaine and 136.2 grams of cocaine base which is called “crack.” The drugs sold or distributed during the transactions had a combined estimated street value of \$33,090.00.

U.S. Attorney Huber praised the work of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and

Explosives (ATF), the Barren-Edmonson County Drug Task Force (BECDTF) and the Kentucky State Police (KSP), in conducting an undercover buy-bust operation. A Task Force Detective acted in an undercover capacity, and purchased one kilogram, or 1,000 grams, of powder cocaine and four ounces, 114 grams, of cocaine base, commonly referred to as “crack” cocaine for \$28,000 from **Ortiz**.

On July 15, 2006, **Ortiz** arrived at the rear parking lot of a gas station in Park City, Kentucky, in his green Mercury van and met with the undercover officer. Upon greeting the detective, **Ortiz** showed him one package of powder cocaine (containing one kilogram), and four separate packages of cocaine base, “crack” cocaine (totaling approximately four ounces). **Ortiz** got into a vehicle with the detective where **Ortiz** removed the drugs from his groin area. Upon viewing the drugs, the officer indicated he would get the money from his vehicle, which was parked approximately 40-50 yards away. As the detective walked to his vehicle, he gave the bust signal and the arrest teams moved in. Law enforcement officials immediately arrested **Ortiz** without incident.

According to a field test of the package, it contained the kilogram of powder cocaine and one of the packages containing “crack” cocaine. The field tests showed positive results for the presence of cocaine and cocaine base, respectively. The agent also weighed the substances. The package of powder cocaine weighed approximately 1,043 grams, including packaging. The four packages of “crack” cocaine weighed a total of 114.9 grams, including packaging.

The Plea Agreement entered into between the parties, and filed in open court, laid out several other instances in which **Ortiz** had sold cocaine, “crack” cocaine, and two firearms. **Ortiz** admitted that on May 26, 2006, he sold approximately 9.6 grams of cocaine to an

individual. He sold the individual approximately 27.7 grams of cocaine on June 1, 2006. On June 9, 2006, **Ortiz** engaged in two separate transactions. First, he sold approximately 54.5 grams of cocaine to the person. Second, he sold the individual a Lorcin .22 caliber pistol and approximately 11.3 grams of cocaine. **Ortiz** sold the man the gun even though he (**Ortiz**), knew that the man was a convicted felon. **Ortiz** again sold the man (a felon), 1.7 grams of cocaine and a Bryco 9mm semi-automatic pistol on June 19, 2006. On June 24, 2006, **Ortiz** gave an undercover detective approximately 1.7 grams of cocaine. Six days later, on June 30, 2006, he sold approximately 26.8 grams of cocaine base, that is, “crack” cocaine, to the detective acting in an undercover capacity.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless prosecuted the case. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, in close conjunction with the Barren-Edmonson County Drug Task Force and Kentucky State Police conducted the investigation.

- END -

DLH:JEL:070213