



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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PADUCAH DRUG TRAFFICKERS INDICTED IN FEDERAL COURT

LOUISVILLE, KY - A federal grand jury in Paducah returned an indictment on July 17, 2007 against DeMarlo Lajuan Henderson, age 23, of 3360 Marshall Road, Paducah and Darius Darnell Smith, age 22, of 809 South 5th Street, Paducah, in McCracken County on charges of conspiracy and distribution of crack-cocaine, 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.

The Indictment alleges that between April 18 and May 3, 2006, Henderson and Smith conspired with each other and persons known and unknown to the grand jury to possess with the intent to distribute more than 5 grams of crack-cocaine in McCracken County, Kentucky. In addition, the Indictment charges that on each of the following dates Henderson distributed more than 5 grams of crack-cocaine in McCracken County: March 17, 2006, May 3, 2006, and May 9, 2006. The crack-cocaine recovered in this matter has a street value of over \$4,700. The Indictment also seeks the forfeiture of any proceeds or property used in, or gained from the commission of the drug trafficking offenses.

Usually, in the event of a conviction, the minimum potential penalty would be five years imprisonment with a maximum potential penalty of 40 years, a \$2,000,000 fine, and supervised

release for a period of at least four years. However, because both Henderson and Smith have a prior state court conviction for trafficking in cocaine, the minimum penalties can be doubled in federal court. Therefore in the event of a conviction, Henderson and Smith are each facing a mandatory minimum penalty of ten years imprisonment, a \$4,000,000 fine and supervised release for a period of at least eight years following incarceration.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michele Thielhorn. The Bowling Green Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Paducah Police Department, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

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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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