



PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jerome Hughes, 32, Beloit, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison to distributing crack cocaine. On January 12, 2006, Hughes sold approximately 13 grams of crack cocaine to a police informant for \$500.

U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing for October 24, 2007. Hughes faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison.

The charge against Hughes was the result of an investigation conducted by the Rock County Safe Streets Task Force comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Rock County Sheriff's Department; the Beloit Police Department; the Janesville Police Department; and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau. To date, a total of 43 defendants have been convicted of federal drug and gun charges resulting from Task Force investigations. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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