

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

ST. CHARLES BAIL BONDSMAN SENTENCED FOR MURDER-FOR-HIRE PLOT

St. Louis, Missouri: Virgil Jackson, a St. Charles bail bondsman, was sentenced to 120 months in prison on charges involving a 2005 murder-for-hire plot to kill a rival bondsman, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway announced today.

“Mr. Jackson fully intended to have this man killed,” said Hanaway. “Due to the quick actions of the investigating agencies, a tragic situation was avoided.”

ATF Special Agent in Charge Mike Boxler said thwarting a violent crime of this nature is among ATF's highest priorities and commended the cooperative investigative effort with St. Charles Police Department and the U. S. Attorney's Office.

According to facts stated in court during the plea, in December 2004, Jackson confronted Gerald Cox, a rival bail bondsman and threatened to kill him, claiming that Cox was steering customers away from his business. Cox talked him out of it by promising to “make things right.” In January Jackson applied to the Missouri Division of Insurance for a general bail bond license, his application was denied in September 2005. In October 2005, in a series of telephone calls, Jackson arranged to meet with a confidential informant at a restaurant in St. Charles, Missouri, with instructions on how to kill Cox, and agreed to provide the informant with a firearm and bullets. After the meeting, they traveled to Cox's place of employment and Jackson showed him the method of the murder, which included shooting Cox outside his place of business and disposing of his body in the Missouri River at a landing area in St. Charles, Missouri.

VIRGIL LEE JACKSON, 67, of Winfield, Missouri, pled guilty in August to one felony count of murder for hire. He appeared today for sentencing before United States District Judge Henry E.

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Hanaway commended the work on the case by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), St. Charles Police Department, and Assistant United States Attorney Dean Hoag, who handled the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.