



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/KYW

CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN
PHONE: (502) 582-5911
FAX: (502) 582-5097

**LOUISVILLE DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS
ON FEDERAL NARCOTICS AND GUN CHARGES**

- Convicted felon had admitted to dealing crack cocaine and possessing a firearm

LOUISVILLE, KY - Alonzo Lanier Mason, age 32, of Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in United States District Court, for trafficking in cocaine and possessing a firearm after having received a felony conviction, 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.

Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Mason to 5 years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

Mason had pled guilty to possessing over 54.34 grams of crack cocaine with the intent to distribute it. Mason had admitted that he had a Smith & Wesson .40 caliber handgun in his possession. Mason was operating a vehicle when members of the Louisville Metro Police Department pulled him over. Prior to stopping his vehicle, Mason tossed a baggie containing the cocaine out of the car. The firearm was located inside the vehicle. The approximate street value of the cocaine was \$2,400.00.

At the sentencing hearing, the court took into consideration the fact that Mason was a

convicted felon having previously been convicted of Second Degree Robbery and two separate charges of First Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert B. Bonar. The Louisville Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with Louisville Metro Police Department, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

This was a Project Backfire prosecution. Project Backfire is a cooperative effort by the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorneys Office, the Louisville Metro Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that firearm offenses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the state and federal law.

###