



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky

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

**PADUCAH DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS AND TEN MONTHS
FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CRACK COCAINE**

*- Street value of drugs \$2,300
- Previously convicted in March 2006 of trafficking in cocaine
and wanton endangerment*

PADUCAH, KY - Tarris McKinney, age 23, of 732 Levin Avenue, Paducah, Kentucky, in McCracken County, was sentenced to 5 years and 10 months imprisonment in United States District Court, Paducah, Kentucky, for distribution of crack cocaine, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of 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.

Thomas Russell, Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced McKinney to 4 years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

U.S. Attorney Huber praised the special partnership program of the ATF and the Paducah Police Department saying that it “allows local drug dealers to be targeted and helps reduce violence in Paducah.”

McKinney has a prior conviction for wanton endangerment and drug trafficking (cocaine) from the McCracken Circuit Court. In March of 2006, he was arrested for possession of 46 grams of cocaine and a handgun.

McKinney had plead guilty on March 11, 2008. Between June and July, 2006, the

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) utilized a confidential informant (CI) to make three controlled buys of crack-cocaine from Defendant McKinney in Paducah, here in the Western District of Kentucky.

The Facts

Specifically, on June 7, 2006, the CI spoke with McKinney on the phone and arranged to purchase a 1/4 ounce of crack-cocaine for \$200.00 in the parking lot at McDonalds. Lab results show the crack-cocaine purchased from McKinney on that date weighed 5.5 net grams.

Then, on June 30, 2006, the CI again placed a recorded call to McKinney and arranged to purchase another 1/4 ounce of crack-cocaine for \$200.00. This time the crack-cocaine purchase took place in the Walgreen's parking lot. Lab results show the crack-cocaine purchased on this date weighed 5.5 net grams.

A third controlled purchase was made on July 12, 2006. On that date, the CI once again placed a recorded call to McKinney and arranged to purchase 1/2 ounce of crack-cocaine for \$400.00. This time the crack-cocaine purchase took place in the SuperValue parking lot. Lab results show the crack-cocaine purchased from McKinney on this date weighed 11.5 net grams, providing an overall total of 22.5 net grams of crack-cocaine.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michele Thielhorn, and it was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Louisville Field Division/Paducah Satellite Office 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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