

NEWS RELEASE

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CAPE GIRARDEAU MAN SENTENCED TO 78 MONTHS ON FEDERAL GUN AND DRUG CHARGES

October 14, 2008

A Cape Girardeau, Missouri man was sentenced today on federal gun and drug charges, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

DAVID L. HIGHTOWER, age 24, was sentenced to 78 months on two felony counts of distribution of cocaine base, and one felony count of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. He appeared before United States District Judge Henry E. Autrey.

On May 16, 2007, members of the Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force were conducting an investigation into the distribution of controlled substances in the Cape Girardeau area. They were using the services of a Confidential Informant to make purchases of those substances. At around 10:00 a.m., the Confidential Informant met with David L. Hightower on a parking lot

located at 1448 North Kingshighway in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Mr. Hightower transferred .65 grams of a substance which contained cocaine base to the CI in exchange for \$80.00. The CI delivered that substance to the officers from the Task Force.

At approximately 11:50 a.m., on May 16, 2007, the CI met with Mr. Hightower at the same parking lot. At that time, Mr. Hightower transferred .31 grams of a substance containing cocaine base to the CI in exchange for \$40.00. The CI delivered that substance to the officers from the Task Force.

The officers decided to arrest Mr. Hightower for the sales just described. An officer stopped Mr. Hightower in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, while Mr. Hightower was driving a vehicle and placed him under arrest. A search of the vehicle disclosed a firearm under the driver's seat.

Hanaway praised the Cape Girardeau Police Department, the Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.