



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2008
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/KYW

CONTACT: DAWN MASDEN
PHONE: (502) 582-5911
FAX: (502) 582-5097

BOWLING GREEN MAN CHARGED IN METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY

- Bowling Green/Warren County Drug Task Force Case

BOWLING GREEN, KY - A federal grand jury in Louisville returned an Indictment on October 22, 2008, against **Raymond Burch, Jr.**, age 54, of 544 Iroquois Drive, Bowling Green, Kentucky, in Warren County, on charges of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and multiple instances of distributing methamphetamine, 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.

The Indictment alleges that in or about and between June and July 2007, Burch conspired with other individuals to distribute methamphetamine in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The Indictment also alleges that Burch and others aided and abetted each other in the distribution of methamphetamine on or about June 27, 2007. Finally, the Indictment alleges that Burch distributed methamphetamine on two separate occasions on about July 10, 2007, and again on July 12, 2007.

Criminal Complaint Affidavit

A criminal complaint had previously been filed against Burch, who was in state custody on unrelated drug charges at that time. According to the Affidavit of a Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, on June 15, 2007, a drug task force

detective received information from a reliable confidential informant that the informant had been offered a quantity of methamphetamine from a white male named Raymond Burch, a/k/a "Steamboat." According to the Informant, Burch lived at 544 Iroquois Drive, Bowling Green, Kentucky. Burch was known to members of the drug task force and had recently been arrested in February 2007 for Unlawful Possession of a Methamphetamine Precursor, 1st offense.

On or about July 10, 2007, the confidential informant made a controlled purchase of methamphetamine from Burch. Law enforcement officials fitted the informant with a recording device and followed the informant to Burch's residence located at 544 Iroquois Drive, Bowling Green, Kentucky. The informant entered the residence and met with Burch in the garage. Burch handed the informant a quantity of methamphetamine and the informant handed Burch the money. After completing the purchase, informant left the residence and was surveilled by drug task force detectives to a prearranged meeting location where the informant turned over the methamphetamine to the detectives.

On or about July 10, 2007, on an occasion different than that described above, the informant made a controlled purchase of methamphetamine from Burch. Detectives followed the informant to Burch's residence. The informant met with Burch in a bedroom in the residence. The informant asked for a quantity of methamphetamine. Burch produced the methamphetamine and laid it on a table for the informant. After completing the transaction, the informant turned the methamphetamine over to drug task force detectives.

On or about July 12, 2007, the informant made another controlled purchase of methamphetamine from Burch. As with the prior transactions, the informant wore a recording device. The informant purchased three plastic baggies of methamphetamine from Burch and then turned over the drugs to drug task force detectives.

On each occasion set out above, the detectives performed field tests of the purchased drugs. On each occasion, the substances tested positive for methamphetamine. The informant purchased methamphetamine with a street value of \$2,150.00 from Burch and his associates.

On July 12, 2007, law enforcement officials executed a State search warrant for Burch's residence. Agents/detectives of the Bowling Green/Warren County Drug Task Force executed the State search warrant. The residence was secured and Burch was located in the master bedroom of the residence. A pat down search of Burch revealed some of the recorded buy money previously used by the informant to purchase methamphetamine located in Burch's pants pocket. During execution of the search warrant, law enforcement officials located approximately 2 grams of methamphetamine in the bathroom attached to the master bathroom. Additionally, law enforcement officials seized \$1,200.00 in United States currency.

In the event of a conviction, the maximum potential penalties are 150 years' imprisonment, a \$10,000,000.00 fine, and supervised release for a period of at least 6 years and could be any number of years, up to and including life.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless is prosecuting the case. The Bowling Green Field Office of ATF conducted the investigation in partnership with the Bowling Green/Warren County Drug Task Force, as part of ATF's ongoing commitment to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

Burch is scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on November 18, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

* * *

The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

###