



# U.S. Department of Justice

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## **FREEPORT MAN SENTENCED TO 200 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR ILLEGALLY DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE**

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; RICHARD W. SANDERS, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration; THOMAS J. KNEIR, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; LARRY G. TRENT, Director of the Illinois State Police; DAVID SNYDERS, Stephenson County Sheriff; and JERRY WHITMORE, Chief of the Freeport Police Department, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **GARY L. HOWARD**, 27 (DOB: 03/31/77), of 47 South Hancock, Freeport, Illinois, to 200 months in federal prison without parole for distributing "crack" cocaine.

Howard pleaded guilty to the charge on April 29, 2004. In pleading guilty, Howard admitted that on June 27, 2003, he knowingly and intentionally sold an individual, who was actually an undercover agent, 87.1 grams of crack cocaine. Specifically, Howard admitted that he met with the undercover agent in front of an auto repair business in Freeport, Illinois. Howard admitted that during that meeting he discussed selling the undercover agent 3 ounces of crack cocaine. Howard admitted to giving the undercover agent 80.8 grams of crack cocaine. Since the crack cocaine Howard gave the agent did not weigh 3 ounces, Howard told the agent that he would return with another quarter ounce. Howard left and returned approximately five minutes later and gave the undercover agent a plastic bag containing an additional 6.3 grams of crack cocaine. At the time of his guilty plea, Howard also admitted to distributing and possession with intent to distribute an additional 598 grams of crack cocaine between January 2001 and August 2003.

In addition to 200 months in prison, the court ordered Howard to serve 5 years of supervised release following his release from prison. As a special condition of supervised release the court ordered Howard to repay to the United States the \$7,300 used as "buy" money in the offenses. Howard was also ordered to pay a \$200 fine, and a \$100 special assessment.

The case was investigated by Rockford offices of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Freeport Police Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

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