

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
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Willingboro Man Sentenced to 96 Months in Prison for Distribution
of Crack Cocaine and Illegal Possession of a Handgun

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Willingboro man was sentenced to 96 months in federal prison today for distribution of crack cocaine and illegally possessing a handgun, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

U.S. District Judge Noel L. Hillman also ordered Eric Williams, 25, a.k.a. “Eric Bryant,” to pay a \$200 special assessment and to serve 5 years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term.

Williams was arrested on Feb. 25, 2009, by Special Agents with the FBI and ATF, along with Investigators with the Burlington County Prosecutor’s Office, on a federal criminal Complaint. The next day, Feb. 26, Williams made his initial appearance in federal court, before U.S. Magistrate Ann Marie Donio. At that hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Smith, in arguing for the defendant’s detention, told the court that Williams is a reputed member of a violent Burlington County street gang known as “Muslims Over Everything” or “MOE.”

On June 26, 2009, Williams pleaded guilty before Judge Hillman to a two-count Information that charged him with distribution and possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and illegal possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon. At his plea hearing, Williams admitted that on three separate occasions, in May and June 2008, he sold quantities of crack cocaine to an individual, who he later learned was a confidential source (“CS”) assisting law enforcement authorities. Williams admitted that on May 22, 2008, he met the CS a parking lot next to Unity Hustlers in Willingboro and sold the CS approximately 50 grams of crack cocaine for \$1,400.

Williams admitted that on June 3, 2008, he again met the CS at the same location and sold the CS approximately 100 grams of crack cocaine for \$3,000. Williams admitted that again on June 18, 2008, he sold the CS approximately 70 grams of crack cocaine in exchange for \$2,240.

Furthermore, Williams admitted that at the time of his arrest he was in possession of a Rossi .357 caliber Magnum revolver that was loaded with six live hollow point rounds.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Hillman consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Fishman credited Special Agents with the FBI’s Trenton Resident Agency, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Kevin B. Cruise in Newark; ATF, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Matthew W. Horace in Newark; and Investigators with

the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Robert D. Bernardi, with the investigation leading to the criminal complaint.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jason M. Richardson and Kevin Smith of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Harold Shapiro, Esq. Vineland