



Department of Justice

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LAST MEMBER OF DARKE COUNTY TRIO SENTENCED IN HEROIN TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY

DAYTON – Patrick Antwan Matthews, 25, of Dayton was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 60 months in federal prison on one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, to be served consecutive to a sentence of one-year and one day on a single count of conspiracy to distribute heroin, after pleading guilty on November 10, 2009 to the charges.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Christopher P. Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and members of the Darke County Drug Task Force, announced the sentence delivered today by United States District Judge Walter H. Rice.

Matthews' co-conspirator, Aaron James Miracle, 21, of Greenville, Ohio was sentenced on December 18, 2009 to two consecutive prison terms of 60 months each, for a total of 120 months, on one count each of conspiracy to distribute heroin and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, after pleading guilty on August 21, 2009 to the charges.

Miracle's wife, Melissa Marie Yagle-Miracle, 24, Greenville, Ohio, was sentenced on March 18, 2010 to a total of 120 months imprisonment as well, after pleading guilty on December 29, 2009 to the same two counts as her co-conspirators.

According to the statement of facts filed in Court, between October 2008 and February 2009, Matthews and the Miracles participated in a conspiracy to unlawfully distribute and possess with intent to distribute a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin.

This conspiracy became the subject of a Darke County Drug Task Force (DCDTF) investigation. During the course of the investigation, DCDTF, on eleven occasions, purchased heroin from one or more of the conspirators at the Miracles' residence at 1337 N. Chippewa Drive, Greenville, Ohio.

During the course of the conspiracy, the trio purchased heroin from a source of supply in Dayton, Ohio, and sold approximately 150 grams of the heroin to various customers who came to the Chippewa Drive address.

On February 20, 2009, law enforcement investigators executed a search warrant at the Greenville residence and discovered heroin and numerous firearms, including a Smith and Wesson .40 caliber handgun which was possessed and used in furtherance of the drug trafficking conspiracy.

Stewart commended the cooperative investigation by agents of the ATF and detectives of the Darke County Drug Task Force, and Assistant U.S. Attorney William Schenck, who prosecuted the case.

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