



**R. Booth Goodwin II, United States Attorney  
Southern District of West Virginia**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 25, 2011  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs/>

CONTACT: Melvin Smith  
800-659-8726\*(304)345-2200  
Melvin.Smith@usdoj.gov

**COLUMBUS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. –Antwaun M. Winbush, 30, of Columbus, pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court before United States District Judge John T. Copenhaver, Jr. to possession with intent to distribute cocaine base. Winbush admitted that on October 5, 2010, he was an occupant in a vehicle en route to Fayette County, West Virginia, to deliver a quantity of cocaine base to what proved to be a confidential informant working with the Oak Hill Police and Fayette County Sheriff's Departments. Following the stop of the defendant's vehicle at Drifter's Bar parking lot located in Glen Jean, Fayette County, a search warrant was obtained to search the vehicle. During the subsequent search of the vehicle, on October 6, 2010, agents seized a quantity of cocaine base from a hidden compartment in the center of the dashboard. Winbush admitted that he placed the drugs in the compartment prior to traveling to the location to meet the confidential informant. The cocaine base seized from the vehicle was submitted to the West Virginia State Police lab and proved to be a total of 113.3 grams of cocaine base.

Winbush faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when he is sentenced on August 25, 2011.

The Oak Hill Police and Fayette County Sheriff's Departments conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John Frail is in charge of the prosecution.

###

**HUNTINGTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES**

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. –Anthony J. Caudill, 21, of Huntington, pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers to distribution of a quantity of heroin. Caudill admitted that on November 9, 2010, he sold 27.9 grams of heroin to an undercover law enforcement officer at a store that was located in Huntington.

Caudill faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when he is sentenced on October 11, 2011.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Steven Loew is in charge of the prosecution.

This case is being prosecuted as part of a yearlong undercover operation that targeted illegal drugs and firearms crimes in the Huntington area. The operation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and assisted by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Huntington Police Department, and various other law enforcement agencies. It was announced to the public in March after a grand jury returned indictments against 55 defendants.

###

## **COLUMBUS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL ILLEGAL FIREARM AND DRUG CHARGES**

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. –Troy L. McKnight, 31, of Columbus, pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers to distribution of crack cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. McKnight admitted that on September 30, 2010, he had a telephone conversation with undercover agents who were working at the Smokin’ Aces store that was located in Huntington to arrange a drug transaction. A short time later, McKnight arrived at the store and provided one of the agents with a large cellophane bag containing 11 smaller cellophane bags, that each contained crack cocaine. McKnight admitted that he sold the 11 eighth of an ounce quantities for \$2,035 cash. On December 12, 2010, two undercover agents traveled to the same store in Huntington to purchase two pistols from the defendant. After multiple telephone conversations, McKnight and an associate arrived at the store and provided the agent with a 9-millimeter pistol and a .22 caliber pistol. The agent gave the defendant \$75 in exchange for the .22 caliber pistol and \$300 in exchange for the 9-millimeter pistol. The defendant also admitted that the agent gave him \$100 for arranging the transaction. At the time of these transactions, McKnight had been convicted in the Court of Common Pleas, Franklin County, Ohio, of felony attempted robbery and possession of cocaine.

McKnight faces up to 40 years in prison and a \$5 million fine when he is sentenced on October 17, 2011.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Greg McVey is in charge of the prosecution.

This case is being prosecuted as part of a yearlong undercover operation that targeted illegal drugs and firearms crimes in the Huntington area. The operation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and assisted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Huntington Police Department, and various other law enforcement agencies. It was announced to the public in March after a grand jury returned indictments against 55 defendants.

###

## **ST. ALBANS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION CHARGE**

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. –Marquette Damon Eanes, 38, of St. Albans, West Virginia, pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Eanes admitted that on November 4, 2010, he entered the Smokin’ Aces store that was located in Huntington, to sell an X-Box game system. During a conversation the defendant had with an undercover Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) agent regarding the sale of the X-Box, the agent observed a pistol located in the waistband of the defendant’s pants. Eanes admitted to walking with the agent to the garage area of the store where he removed the firearm from his waistband. Eanes further admitted to removing the loaded magazine from the firearm and laid it on top of a table located in the garage. After ejecting a cartridge of ammunition from the Smith & Wesson pistol, Eanes admitted that he put the firearm in his left hand and then reached his right hand into a front pants pocket and stated, “I got the uh, I got hollow points right here.” Eanes further admitted that he removed one hollow point cartridge of ammunition from the plastic baggie that he took from his pants pocket and showed it to the agent. The agent subsequently asked the defendant if he wanted \$300 for the firearm. Eanes stated that he did not want to sell the firearm, but would return with another. The defendant did not return. At the time the defendant possessed the firearm, he had been convicted in Circuit Court of Cabell County of transferring stolen property. Eanes was also convicted in United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia of using or carrying a firearm during or in relation to a drug trafficking crime and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Eanes faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced on August 30, 2011.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Greg McVey is in charge of the prosecution.

This case is being prosecuted as part of a yearlong undercover operation that targeted illegal drugs and firearms crimes in the Huntington area. The operation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and assisted by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Huntington Police Department, and various other law enforcement agencies. It was announced to the public in March after a grand jury returned indictments against 55 defendants.

###

### **CABELL COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO COUNTERFEITING AND ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION CHARGES**

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. –Harold Arthur Thompson, 21, of Culloden, Cabell County, West Virginia, pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Thompson admitted that on or about October 28, 2010, he carried a Winchester 20 gauge shotgun into a store located in Huntington and sold the firearm to an undercover law enforcement officer that was present. At the time Thompson possessed the firearm, he had been convicted of felony aiding and abetting the stealing and unlawfully taking and carrying away of firearms from the premises of a person who was licensed to engage in the business of importing, manufacturing, and dealing firearms. Thompson was convicted of the felony on or about October 26, 2010 in United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia.

Thompson also pleaded guilty to manufacturing counterfeit Federal Reserve Notes. He admitted that he used a printer to make fake \$20 and \$100 bills and passed them at local businesses.

Thompson faces up to 30 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine when he is sentenced on October 11, 2011.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Steven Loew is in charge of the prosecution.

This case is being prosecuted as part of a yearlong undercover operation that targeted illegal drugs and firearms crimes in the Huntington area. The operation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and assisted by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Huntington Police Department, and various other law enforcement agencies. It was announced to the public in March after a grand jury returned indictments against 55 defendants.

###