



Department of Justice

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DRUG MARKET INTERVENTION
UNDERWAY IN HUNTINGTON COMMUNITY
Offender Call-in Meeting Set for Thursday, October 21st

HUNTINGTON, WV – Huntington Police Chief Skip Holbrook and United States Attorney Booth Goodwin, in collaboration with other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, the Fairfield West Improvement Council and the Fairfield Crime and Safety Committee, announce the launch of a Drug Market Intervention (DMI) initiative in the Fairfield area of Huntington.

DMI, which was first implemented in High Point, North Carolina, and has since been replicated with success in several other cities, is a strategic problem-solving initiative aimed at closing down open-air drug markets that breed crimes of violence and disorder. As part of the strategy, certain offenders are identified for prosecution. This phase of DMI implementation in Fairfield is now complete. Over the past several months, the Huntington Police Department and other federal, state and local law enforcement entities have conducted undercover operations culminating in federal and state charges being filed against approximately 26 individuals. Seven individuals were arrested on state drug charges earlier this week and additional arrests are anticipated. As part of the initiative, federal indictments have been returned against the following individuals:

Melissa Jo Plants, 31, of Huntington, WV
Edward Peter Floyd, Jr., 54, of Huntington, WV
Mika Lynn Ross, also known as Mika Myers, 33, of Huntington, WV
Derrick Lamont Jenkins, 23, of Chicago, IL
John Pinkney, 40, of Huntington, WV
Curtis Capers, 21, of Detroit, Michigan
Elizabeth Dawn Powers, 21, of Huntington, WV
Stanley Smith, 41, of Detroit, Michigan
William Raeshaun Byrd, 20, of Huntington, WV

U. S. Attorney Booth Goodwin stated, “I fully support the efforts of Chief Holbrook, the Huntington Police Department and the Fairfield community in the implementation of the DMI initiative. We intend to send a clear message that open air drug dealing and crimes of violence are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. My Office stands ready to vigorously prosecute those individuals who persist in doing so.”

For other offenders, the strategy calls for a staged intervention where offenders, along with family members and other influentials, meet with law enforcement officials and members of the community. The community intervention is set to take place Thursday, October 21, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. at the Marie Redd Senior Center located at 1750 Ninth Avenue in Huntington. At that time, six lower level, nonviolent offenders will be offered a rare second chance to stop their criminal activity. The community will offer support and resources to those wanting to make a positive change in their lives.

Chief Skip Holbrook emphasized that although a lot of attention is focused on drug dealers working in the target area, the DMI strategy is not about changing individuals, but changing a community. "Our ultimate goal is to give the neighborhood back to the residents with an improved quality of life. I am confident that through investigation and prosecution of certain offenders, and leveraging the charges of lower level dealers to close the drug market, we will greatly increase public safety in the Fairfield area."

Please note: The Fifth Amendment and applicable Federal law gives a criminal defendant a personal right of Indictment by grand jury for Federal crimes punishable by more than one year imprisonment. An Indictment is a formal, written accusation by a grand jury. An Indictment or Information is not proof of guilt, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless they are found guilty.

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