



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

May 21, 2009

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JANESVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR ROLE IN CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Joseph "Pookie" Hughes, 39, Janesville, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court by Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 60 months in prison for conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.

Between December 20, 2006 and December 24, 2006, Hughes was involved in a crack cocaine conspiracy with Jennifer Hanthorn, John Dunn, and Jerome Hughes. In December 2006, law enforcement officers intercepted numerous calls by Jerome Hughes, who was in prison at the Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution, to Hanthorn and Dunn in which he directed them to acquire crack cocaine from his cousin, Joseph Hughes, on December 24, 2006.

On January 7, 2009, a grand jury indicted Joseph Hughes for his role in the case and on March 24, 2009, he pleaded guilty.

Jerome Hughes, Dunn, and Hanthorn were prosecuted in 2008 for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine. Jerome Hughes is serving a 40-year term of imprisonment, Dunn is serving a ten-year term of imprisonment, and Hanthorn is serving

a 46-month term of imprisonment.

The case against Joseph Hughes was the result of an investigation conducted by the Rock County Safe Streets Task Force comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Drug Enforcement Administration; Rock County Sheriff's Department; Beloit Police Department; Janesville Police Department; and Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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