



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 2007

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CAREER OFFENDER PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG AND FIREARMS CHARGES

_____ Orlando, Florida - Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt today announced that Ricky Douglas Haynes, Jr., a 31 year-old resident of Titusville, Florida, pleaded guilty yesterday in two separate cases charging him with federal narcotics and firearms offenses. In the first case, Haynes pleaded guilty to the offenses of possession of "crack" cocaine with the intent to distribute; possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime; and, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. In the second case, Haynes pleaded guilty to two counts of distribution of "crack" cocaine. Based on his prior criminal record, Haynes faces a minimum mandatory term of 10 years' imprisonment up to life imprisonment on each of the narcotics charges. On the firearms charges, Haynes likewise faces a minimum mandatory term of 15 years' imprisonment up to life imprisonment. The co-defendant in the first case, Shakira E. Robinson, also entered a guilty plea to misprision (concealment) of a felony at a separate hearing.

According to the facts presented at the plea hearing, City of Titusville police officers executed a search warrant at Haynes's residence on July 21, 2006. Inside the home, they recovered "crack" cocaine intended for distribution, drug paraphernalia and a loaded firearm. After being advised of his Constitutional rights, Haynes admitted that the firearm was present to protect his product, the crack cocaine. In the second case, Haynes sold "crack" cocaine on November 29 and December 18, 2006, to an undercover ATF agent in

a recorded transaction.

_____The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Brevard/Seminole Counties, the City of Titusville Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. In Brevard County, State Attorney Norm Wolfinger is calling the initiative "Operation Cease Fire." The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Craig S. Forrester of the Brevard County State Attorney's Office.