



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2008
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CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN
PHONE: (502) 582-5911
FAX: (502) 582-5097

**FRANKFORT DRUG DEALER ADMITS ATTEMPTING TO BUY
TWO KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE**

- Three-time felon caught with \$22,820 cash in attempted buy

LOUISVILLE, KY - Shawon C. Hickman, age 35, of 190 Centennial Drive, Frankfort, Kentucky, in Franklin County, pled guilty to attempting to possess cocaine with the intent to distribute it, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today. Hickman had attempted to purchase two kilograms of cocaine and was caught in a drug sting.

Hickman's prior criminal history includes a 1994 state conviction for trafficking in cocaine, possession of marijuana and use or possession of drug paraphernalia, a 2002 state conviction for assault under extreme emotional disturbance, intimidating a witness, unlawful imprisonment, menacing and terroristic threatening, and a 2003 state conviction for possession of cocaine and tampering with physical evidence.

U.S. Attorney Huber noted the cooperative efforts of six local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, saying "together they kept two kilos of cocaine off the streets that Hickman would have eventually purchased from someone else."

Facts

Hickman admitted that on June 20, 2007 he contacted a man and arranged to purchase two kilograms of cocaine. Unbeknownst to Hickman, the seller was a Drug Enforcement

Agency Confidential Source. At approximately 6:05 p.m. that evening, Hickman and co-defendant George Breed arrived at a prearranged meeting location in a pickup truck driven by Breed. After meeting the Confidential Source, Hickman showed the Confidential Source a large amount of cash that he had brought to purchase the two kilograms of cocaine. The Confidential Source then handed a backpack containing two "dummy" kilograms of cocaine to Breed through the driver's side window of Breed's pickup truck. Breed then handed the backpack to Hickman in the passenger seat.

After the transaction was complete, law enforcement agents moved in to arrest Hickman and Breed. When he saw the law enforcement agents approaching, Breed drove away in his pickup truck, striking the vehicle of an ATF Special Agent who was attempting to apprehend the two men. When agents were able to get Breed's vehicle stopped, Breed fled on foot but was apprehended a short distance away. Hickman was arrested in the vehicle, where \$22,820.00 in cash was discovered. The estimated street value of two kilograms of cocaine is \$36,000.00.

The maximum potential penalties are 40 years imprisonment, a \$2,000,000.00 fine, and supervised release for life; and the minimum potential penalties are 5 years imprisonment and supervised release for a period of 4 years.

Co-defendant Breed is currently awaiting trial. Hickman admitted that he was present to purchase 2 kilograms of cocaine to later sell at a profit.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas W. Dyke, and it was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") Task Force, which includes officers from a number of different local agencies including the Oldham County Police Department, the Kentucky State Police, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and the Louisville Metro Police Department as well as federal agents from DEA, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The plea was entered before Dave Whalin, Magistrate Judge, United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky.

Hickman is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge John G. Heyburn on November 3, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

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