



PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Allen Ladd, Madison, DOB 06/24/1965, was convicted of possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and being a felon in possession of a firearm yesterday following a two-day jury trial in federal court in Madison. Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb scheduled sentencing for December 2, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. Ladd faces a maximum penalty of 360 months to life imprisonment.

At trial, the government introduced evidence that Ladd was intending to sell crack cocaine to a customer of his on March 12, 2005. Prior to completing the drug sale, however, the customer was arrested by the Madison Police Department on unrelated charges. The customer agreed to cooperate with the police, in exchange for consideration, and several phone calls were made to Ladd to discuss the purchase of crack cocaine. Ladd agreed to meet at the Denny's Restaurant on Gammon Road and the police responded instead of the customer.

As the police surrounded Ladd's car, Ladd failed to comply with repeated commands to keep his hands in the air. Officers observed him manipulating his left arm to the left of the steering wheel. While officers were telling Ladd to keep his hands

in the air, the trunk popped open. A subsequent search of the car revealed a hidden compartment to the left of the steering wheel. The exterior of the hidden compartment contained the trunk release button and inside the compartment, officers recovered 18 grams of crack cocaine and a loaded Bryco handgun.

The government also introduced a letter Ladd had written to a friend on September 14, 2005, directing the friend to go through whatever means he had to, to make sure the customer from March 12, 2005, did not come to court.

The charges against Ladd were the result of an investigation conducted by the Madison Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The charges were also the result of the ongoing Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative in the Madison area, which has resulted in 18 federal convictions for firearms offenses since January 2005. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

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