



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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April 1, 2008

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Donnell McKenzie**

**DETROIT CRACK DEALER PLEADS GUILTY**

*Career Offender To Be Sentenced From 10 Years To Life In Federal Prison*

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Donnell McKenzie, 27, of Detroit pled guilty in federal court today to felony drug charges, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Joining in the announcement was Special Agent-In-Charge Thomas E. Brandon, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

McKenzie pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute more than 5 grams of crack cocaine before United States District Judge Gerald E. Rosen. McKenzie was identified as a result of undercover purchases made by disguised ATF agents and Detroit Police Department officers. On March 27, 2007, McKenzie sold 11 grams of crack cocaine to an undercover ATF agent for \$350.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Selling crack carries very high federal prison sentences, and even more so when the dealer has a significant criminal history. I salute the hard work and courage of all the federal, state, and local law enforcement agents who bravely put their lives on the line doing undercover work to help rid our streets of this deadly substance."

SAC Brandon said, "This guilty pleas shows that joint enforcement efforts like Operation TIDE work by getting violent criminal offenders off of the street."

This is McKenzie's third drug-related conviction. In February 2002, he was convicted in Wayne County Circuit Court of delivering/manufacturing cocaine. In September 2004, he was convicted of felony possession of cocaine. McKenzie was also convicted, in June 1999, of felony home invasion. As a result, McKenzie is classified as a career offender in his plea agreement and faces an advisory sentencing guideline range of 22 to 27 years imprisonment. Distribution of more than 5 grams of crack cocaine is punishable by a statutory minimum of 10 years and up to life imprisonment.

With McKenzie's plea, all three defendants indicted by the government on August 2, 2007 in the case have been convicted. On March 4, 2008, Jamil Ingram, 29, pled guilty to conspiracy charges. Like McKenzie, Ingram is a career offender facing a 10-year mandatory minimum and an advisory guideline range of 22 to 27 years. On February 22, 2008, Khary Broyles, 28, also pled guilty to drug conspiracy charges. Broyles faces a statutory minimum of five years imprisonment.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Operation TIDE is the unprecedented, long-term law enforcement and community collaboration where federal, state, county and local law enforcement officials meet regularly and work in cooperation to reduce violent crimes and prevent recidivism by focusing on the "worst of the worst" in Northwest Detroit, Detroit's largest police district.

Other PSN Operation TIDE Task Force partners include the U.S. Marshals Service, the FBI, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, and the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Citizens with information concerning illegal guns, gangs with guns, armed drug

trafficking or the trafficking of illegal guns are encouraged to call 800-ATF-GUNS. Callers can remain anonymous. This number is managed and answered by law enforcement, ATF agents who work directly with local police departments. For information about Project Safe Neighborhoods call 1-800-891-8881 or visit [www.psnworks.org](http://www.psnworks.org).

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Leonid Feller.