



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Michael Locke

DETROIT MAN SENTENCED FOR MARIJUANA GROW OPERATION

A Detroit man was sentenced yesterday to 93 months imprisonment for charges related to a marijuana grow operation, Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

Mr. Berg was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Thomas E. Brandon, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Michael Locke, 40, of Detroit, was sentenced by United States District Judge Gerald E. Rosen.

Locke pleaded guilty in May 2008 to one count of Felon in Possession of a Firearm, one count of Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana and one count of Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime. The offenses arose from Locke's operation in early 2006, of a marijuana growing location in a four-unit Detroit residence. During a search of the premises a stolen 9mm handgun was recovered. Also recovered were 797 marijuana plants, growing equipment, including lights, fans, humidifiers and narcotics paraphernalia and a sum of United States Currency.

At the time of his plea, Locke admitted to the Court that he was operating the marijuana grow operation, which encompassed the entire east side lower level of the residence and selling marijuana. He admitted to possessing the firearm for protection.

Acting U.S. Attorney Berg said, "This significant sentence should send a message to felons that use guns to commit crimes: If you use a gun in connection with drug trafficking you will face hard time in a federal prison."

Special Agent in Charge Brandon said, "The sentencing of this defendant shows that ATF is dedicated to reducing violent crime in Detroit. Not only did this defendant sell marijuana, but he also ran a large scale marijuana growing operation and admitted to possessing a firearm for protection. This highlights that the problem that illegal drugs and guns go hand-in-hand."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Susan Gillooly.