



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OVER \$5 MILLION IN FORFEITED DRUG PROCEEDS DISTRIBUTED FROM THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA TO STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, and Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Dennis A. Wichern of the Drug Enforcement Administration announced that \$5,253,373 in forfeited drug funds were distributed to a total of 99 state and local law enforcement agencies and departments during the past five calendar years, 2002 - 2006. The distributed monies come from assets that were derived from, or were used to facilitate, drug trafficking activities.

“Drug dealers should be on notice that crime does not pay,” said U.S. Attorney Susan W. Brooks. “We will continue to use one of the most powerful tools in our arsenal to strip drug dealers of the money they crave and use the drug money to fund new law enforcement initiatives.”

Forfeited funds are transferred to local, state and federal law enforcement through the Department of Justice’s “Equitable Sharing Program,” which is administered by the United States Marshals Service. Each agency that participates in the program is required to use the funds for law enforcement purposes.

The Department of Justice asset forfeiture program has three primary goals: To punish and deter criminal activity by depriving criminals of property used or acquired through illegal activities, to enhance cooperation among federal, state and local law enforcement, and to produce revenues to enhance forfeitures and strengthen law enforcement. An example of such cooperation occurred during July of 2005, when the DEA, Indiana State Police, and Indianapolis

Police Department dismantled a major cocaine trafficking organization based in Indianapolis, Indiana and Mexico which culminated with 20 arrests, the seizure of 45 kilograms of cocaine, and over \$500,000 in cash and assets.

The Department of Justice Equitable Sharing Program is designed to enhance cooperation among federal, state and local law enforcement through the sharing of proceeds resulting from federal forfeiture. State and local law enforcement agencies receive equitable sharing revenues by participating with federal law enforcement in joint investigations that lead to the forfeiture of property. The amount that is shared with state and local law enforcement is usually based on each agency's level of participation in the case. Many of the state and local law enforcement agencies received funds based on their participation on DEA Task Forces.

The attached document details how the \$5,253,373 in forfeited drug proceeds were distributed.

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