



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RESERVE POLICE OFFICER INDICTED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that CHRISTOPHER SPAULDING, age 26, STEVEN KELLER, age 39, DUSTIN ADAMS, age 24, CHRISTOPHER JOHNS, age 27, NATASHA NIX, age 25, all of Indianapolis, Indiana, were indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis for conspiracy to traffic in marijuana. BRANDI SPAULDING, age 22, and DARLENE SPAULDING, age 52, also of Indianapolis, were indicted for using the telephone to facilitate marijuana trafficking. A nine-count indictment was unsealed this afternoon in U.S. District Court following the arrest of all defendants.

Today marked the conclusion of a six-month investigation initiated by the Indiana State Police, with assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Indiana. The investigation involved the allegation of corruption by a reserve public safety officer with the IMPD.

Over the course of the investigation it was determined a reserve officer, CHRISTOPHER D. SPAULDING, and several accomplices not affiliated with any law enforcement agency were allegedly trafficking illegal drugs throughout the greater Indianapolis area.

This investigation involved undercover resources of over a dozen state police officers along with significant FBI resources and assistance from the IMPD. Along with this morning's arrests, which began shortly before 9:00 this morning and concluded within 45 minutes, four search warrants were served as part of this investigation. All arrests were made without incident. CHRISTOPHER JOHNS was already in custody on an unrelated drug trafficking charge.

The indictment alleges that CHRISTOPHER SPAULDING, a reserve Marion County Sheriff's Deputy, KELLER, ADAMS, JOHNS and NIX conspired to distribute in excess of 100 kilograms of marijuana between November 20, 2006 and March 20, 2007. The indictment further alleges that on November 29, 2006, SPAULDING, acting as a reserve deputy with the Marion County Sheriff's Department, seized \$7,000 in currency from an undercover police officer who purported to be a drug trafficker. SPAULDING allegedly converted the money to his own use.

SPAULDING is also charged with possessing, with intent to deliver, marijuana on February 8, 2007, and two counts of actual distribution of marijuana on February 17, 2007 and March 2, 2007. On February 8, 2007, SPAULDING, in full uniform and armed with his service revolver, allegedly used his police authority to enter a hotel room and seize a quantity of marijuana. SPAULDING then turned the marijuana over to a third person to sell for him.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Bradley A. Blackington and Joe Vaughn, who are prosecuting the case for the government:

CHRISTOPHER SPAULDING faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 5 to 40 years, a maximum possible fine of \$2 million and 4 years supervised release on the conspiracy count; not more than 10 years, \$250,000 fine and 3 years supervised release on the theft of government property count; not more than 5 years, \$250,000 fine and 2 years supervised release on each of the three counts charging distribution of marijuana; 5 years to life, not more than \$250,000 fine, and up to life supervised release on each of the counts charging possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

STEVEN KELLER, DUSTIN ADAMS, CHRISTOPHER JOHNS, and NATASHA NIX all face a maximum possible prison sentence of 5 to 40 years, a maximum possible fine of \$2 million and 4 years supervised release on the conspiracy count.

BRANDI SPAULDING, SPAULDING's wife, and DARLENE SPAULDING, SPALDING's mother, charged only with use of a communication facility to facilitate marijuana trafficking, both face a maximum possible prison sentence of 4 years, a maximum possible fine of \$250,000, and 3 years supervised release.

An initial hearing was held at 3:00 p.m. today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Kennard P. Foster in Indianapolis.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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