



Department of Justice

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COCOA WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CONSPIRACY AND GUN CHARGE

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill today announced Celia Theresa Meeks, a/k/a Celia Theresa McCurry ("MEEKS"), a resident of Cocoa, Florida, pleaded guilty to the offenses of Conspiracy to Possess With Intent to Distribute Cocaine Base "Crack" (over 50 grams), Possession With Intent to Distribute Cocaine Base "Crack" (over 5 grams), and Possession of a Firearm by a Prohibited Person (Convicted Felon). On the conspiracy charge, MEEKS faces a mandatory minimum term of 10 years up to life imprisonment, a fine of not more than \$4,000,000, a term of not less than 5 years' supervised release, and a special assessment of \$100. On the possession charge, MEEKS faces a mandatory minimum term of 5 years up to 40 years imprisonment, a fine of not more than \$2,000,000, a term of supervised release of no less than 4 years, and a special assessment of \$100. On the firearms charge, MEEKS faces a maximum sentence of not more than 10 years' imprisonment, a fine of not more than \$250,000, and no more than 3 years' supervised release.

According to the plea agreement, between August 2007 and October 2007 MEEKS joined and participated in a conspiracy to distribute over 50 grams of cocaine base (crack cocaine) in Cocoa, Florida with 3 co-conspirators; Damon McCurry ("McCurry"), Pierre Cortez Banks ("Banks"), and Toby Leon Gamble ("Gamble"). MEEKS is married to McCurry. On six separate dates, the co-conspirators sold cocaine base (crack cocaine) and/or firearms to an undercover Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

("ATF") agent . MEEKS is prohibited from possessing firearms because she is a convicted felon. On August 17, 2007 MEEKS, along with McCurry, sold over 5 grams of cocaine base (crack cocaine) and a Smith & Wesson .45 caliber pistol to an undercover ATF agent in a recorded transaction.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Brevard/Seminole Counties, the City of Cocoa Police Department, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, the Melbourne Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), the Florida Department of Law Enforcement ("FDLE") and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. In Brevard County, State Attorney Norm Wolfinger is calling the initiative "Operation Cease Fire." The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Kelly Jo Heiser.