



# Department of Justice

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Tampa

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## TWO MORE "KUNTRY BOYZ" GANG MEMBERS SENTENCED ON FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

Tampa, FL - United States District Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich today sentenced Donte McPherson, age 21, to a term of imprisonment of 57 months for distribution of crack cocaine to a minor. McPherson pled guilty to those charges on October 10, 2007. Darius Hurns, age 23, was sentenced yesterday by Judge Kovachevich to 57 months' imprisonment. On October 3, 2007, Hurns pled guilty to one count of distribution of cocaine.

In June 2007, a total of 58 gang members were rounded up by local, state, and federal law enforcement officers. Thus far, of the 12 "Kuntry Boyz" indicted on federal drug charges, eight have been convicted and sentenced to federal prison. Another "Kuntry Boyz" member is scheduled for sentencing on February 11, 2008. Three cases are still pending.

In addition to the numerous successful prosecutions, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office worked with the Code Enforcement Office to condemn and remove a mobile home located at 1006 Robson Avenue in Seffner. The "Kuntry Boyz" gang used the home as a "crackhouse". An innocent elderly woman who lived in the mobile home was relocated to a safe health care facility.

The law enforcement agencies participating in the crackdown on gang activity are: Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Tampa Police Department, Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, U.S. Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Walter E. Furr and Special Assistant United States Attorney James Shoemaker, who is on assignment with the United States Attorney's Office from the Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Background Information on \$2.5 grant that was awarded to  
Tampa in March 2006 to Combat Gang Activity**

The Attorney General's strategy to combat gangs, which directed the development of this new initiative, is two-fold: First, prioritize prevention programs to provide America's youth, as well as offenders returning to the community, with opportunities that help them resist gang involvement. Second, ensure robust enforcement policies when gang-related violence does occur. Accordingly, each U.S. Attorney in the selected areas will work with state, local and community partners to implement strategies that address the following areas:

- *Prevention* – The Department will make available approximately \$1 million in grants per community to support comprehensive prevention efforts such as the Gang Reduction Program, which focuses on reducing youth-gang crime and violence by addressing the full range of personal, family and community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and gang activity.
- *Enforcement* – The Department will make available approximately \$1 million in grants per community to help support enforcement programs that will focus law enforcement efforts on the most significant violent gang offenders.
- *Prisoner Re-entry* – The Department will make available approximately \$500,000 per community to create re-entry assistance programs that will provide transitional housing, job readiness and placement assistance, and substance abuse and mental health treatment to prisoners re-entering society.

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