



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Raheel "Ray" Shiekh

Hamtramck Businessman Sentenced on Money Laundering Charge

Raheel "Ray" Shiekh, 45, of Warren, was sentenced today to 2 years in prison as a result of his guilty plea on money laundering charges, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Robert Corso, United States Drug Enforcement Administration and Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

According to court records, during 2004 and 2005, Sheikh agreed to assist the Quasand Lewis drug organization in the purchase of several buildings in Detroit and elsewhere. Shiekh took delivery of over \$1.2 million in currency, and using family members and friends, converted the cash to cashiers checks. These cashiers checks were used to purchase the "West Park" Apartments, in Detroit and other buildings in Highland Park, Michigan, Clarkson, Georgia, and Pembroke Pines, Florida. All the properties were purchased in nominee names to conceal and disguise the nature and ownership of the illegal proceeds. Shiekh received a commission

of \$25,000 from the Lewis drug organization.

Lewis was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for his role in illegal drug trafficking after admitting that he organized the distribution of more than 10,000 kilograms of marijuana here in the Detroit area.

“Our office priorities include the tracing of drug profits and the return of money laundering charges in those cases where we can hit drug dealers where it hurts them the most: in their bank accounts. This latest sentence reflects dedication and tireless effort of an entire law enforcement team who worked together so hard to effectively bring down the Lewis drug organization,” United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said. “We continue to monitor this sort of criminal behavior and prosecute it as aggressively as possible where warranted.”

Special Agent in Charge Corso stated, “Mr. Shiekh’s sentencing highlights the significant role money laundering played to support the drug trafficking of this organization. DEA and our law enforcement partners will continue to leave no stone unturned while uncovering the money and assets gain through illegal means.”

IRS Special Agent in Charge Aouate stated that, “Drug dealers and the people they solicit to help them, like any other criminals, are motivated by greed. IRS Criminal Investigation’s unique role is to follow the money trail and, in partnership with DEA and other law enforcement agencies, identify all the guilty parties, shutting them down for good.”

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Janice Terbush.