



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa

Orlando

Jacksonville

Fort Myers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday August 4, 2008

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

CONTACT: STEVE COLE

PHONE: (813) 274-6136

FAX: (813) 274-6300

COCOA CRACK DEALER SENTENCED TO LIFE PLUS THIRTY YEARS FOR DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

ORLANDO, FL - U.S. District Judge Anne C. Conway, today sentenced Damon Daniel McCurry, a/k/a Antonio Brown, to a term of life imprisonment to be followed by 30 years' imprisonment for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute over 50 grams of "crack" cocaine, possession with intent to distribute powdered cocaine, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and using and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. McCURRY, age 31, pleaded guilty on May 1, 2008.

According to court documents, between August 2007 and October 2007 McCURRY participated in a conspiracy to distribute over 50 grams of crack cocaine in Cocoa with 3 co-conspirators – Toby Leon Gamble, Pierre Cortez Banks, and McCURRY's wife, Celia Theresa Meeks, also known as Celia Theresa McCurry. Gamble, Banks and Meeks previously entered guilty pleas for their participation in the conspiracy.

On six separate dates, the co-conspirators sold crack cocaine, powdered cocaine and/or firearms to an undercover Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF") agent. The amount of crack cocaine sold to undercover agents by the co-conspirators totaled over 100 grams. On three occasions, McCURRY sold firearms to undercover agents along with the drugs. McCURRY sold a .45 caliber pistol, a Ruger .357 revolver and a Romanian Arms rifle (typically referred to as an assault rifle) to undercover agents. McCURRY is prohibited from possessing firearms because he is a

convicted felon.

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 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 and Virginia O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge of ATF, are 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 Attorneys Kelly Jo Heiser and Craig S. Forrester, who also serve as Assistant State Attorneys in Brevard and Seminole Counties.