



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FORMER AIRLINE AND AIRPORT EMPLOYEES CHARGED WITH
CONSPIRACY TO SMUGGLE COCAINE PAST AIRPORT SECURITY
AT JACKSONVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Jacksonville, FL - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill, Mark R. Trouville, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Miami Division of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Edward Goodwin, Security Director of the United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in Jacksonville, Florida, Sedrick Rivers, Chief of the Jacksonville International Airport Police Department, Sheriff John Rutherford, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO), today announced the return of an indictment of Lashawndra Brown, a 30 year old resident of Jacksonville, FL, and Antione Knox, a 21 year old resident of Jacksonville, FL, charging Brown and Knox with Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine and Attempted Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute. The maximum penalties both defendants face if convicted on all counts are 10 years to life imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$4,000,000. The defendants made their initial appearance in Jacksonville federal court this morning. Brown was released on \$10,000 signature bond. Knox will have his detention hearing on Monday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Monte C. Richardson at 10:30 a.m.

Brown was a ticketing agent and worked for United Airlines. Knox worked at a shoe shine station in the airport. According to the indictment, the defendants conspired to distribute 5 kilograms of cocaine and attempted to possess 5 kilograms of cocaine with the intent to distribute.

The case was investigated by DEA, TSA, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement(ICE), the Jacksonville International Airport Police Department, and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Angela Dougan Sherrer of the Jacksonville Division of the United States Attorney's Office of the Middle District of Florida.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.