



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **ROCKFORD RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL DISTRIBUTION OF CRACK COCAINE**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; Gary G. Olenkiewicz, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration; and Chet Epperson, Rockford Chief of Police, today made the following announcement:

**RODNEY L. WOODEN**, 34, Rockford, Illinois, pled guilty today in Rockford federal court to illegally distributing cocaine base (“crack cocaine”). In pleading guilty, Wooden admitted that on the afternoon of January 24, 2003, he met with an individual at a residence in Rockford and sold that individual 55.3 grams of crack cocaine. According to the plea agreement, Wooden also admitted to illegally distributing 26.5 grams of crack cocaine on January 14, 2003, and 49.3 grams of crack cocaine on February 6, 2003. Wooden, who was a fugitive for 5 years, has been in custody since his arrest in Indiana on June 25, 2008.

Sentencing for Wooden is scheduled for February 19, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. Wooden faces a maximum potential sentence of life imprisonment, and a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison. Wooden also faces a fine of up to \$4,000,000, a term of supervised release of at least five years following imprisonment and up to life. The actual sentence will be determined by United States District Court Judge Philip G. Reinhard, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by Rockford office of the DEA and the Rockford Police Department, with the assistance of the Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

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