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MAJOR DRUG TRAFFICKER SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON

Habitual Offender Status Mandated a Life Sentence

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that JEREL FLINT HAYNES, age 39, of Broussard, Louisiana, was sentenced to life in prison by United States District Judge Richard T. Haik for drug trafficking charges.

JEREL HAYNES was indicted in March 2008 for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine base, distribution of cocaine base, and one possession with intent to distribute cocaine base. HAYNES pled guilty in September 2008 for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine base (crack) and possession with intent to distribute controlled substances.

JEREL HAYNES, a multiple kilogram supplier of cocaine, and his associates were investigated by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force, Lafayette Police Department, and the Opelousas Police Department. HAYNES had four (4) prior felony drug convictions in state courts in Louisiana and Texas and the government filed notice of his habitual offender status, which mandated that the defendant be sentenced to life in prison.

The investigation into HAYNES' drug trafficking activities began in 2002 when the Opelousas Police Department, Lafayette Metro Narcotics and Houston Police Department conducted a controlled delivery of approximately 800 grams of cocaine in a Fed Ex package to co-defendant, Charles Brooks, sent by HAYNES from Houston. An additional controlled purchase was made from HAYNES by a DEA informant for 149 grams of cocaine base in a Lafayette shopping center parking lot. In addition to the delivery and purchase, DEA agents monitored telephone conversations regarding negotiations to sell illegal substances.

JEREL HAYNES' prior convictions include:

1. Prosecuted in State of Texas, 230th District Court, Harris County, for possession of cocaine weighing less than 28 grams, a felony, committed on March 5, 1989. On March 6, 1989, the defendant pled guilty and was sentenced to five (5) years probation and fined \$750.00. On July 16, 1992, the defendant's probation was revoked and he was sentenced to five (5) years confinement with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
2. Prosecuted in State of Louisiana, 27th Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, for distribution of cocaine, a felony, committed on September 26, 1989, which resulted in a guilty plea on December 17, 1990. The defendant was sentenced on November 22, 1991 to six (6) years confinement at hard labor concurrent with his sentence in Texas;
3. Prosecuted in State of Louisiana, 27th Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, for attempted possession with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance (cocaine), a felony, committed on April 24, 1990, which resulted in a jury trial on March 20, 1991. On November 22, 1991, the defendant was sentenced to eight (8) years confinement at hard labor, six (6) years to run concurrent with his previous sentence in St. Landry Parish and Texas; and
4. Prosecuted in State of Louisiana, 27th Judicial District Court, St. Landry Parish, for distribution of a controlled dangerous substance (cocaine), a felony, committed on May 20, 1991. On January 27, 1992, the defendant pled guilty and was sentenced to six (6) years confinement at hard labor to run concurrent with all other sentences.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Agency and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Brett L. Grayson.

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