



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grand Rapids, Michigan – August 3, 2005 – United States Attorney Margaret M.

Chiara and Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced that on August 1, 2005, U.S. Circuit Judge David W.

McKeague, sitting by designation in the federal district court in Lansing, sentenced Duayne

Saffore, age 32, Anthony Anderson, age 25, and Falcia Crawford, age 24, each of Grand Rapids,

Michigan, for their involvement in the distribution of 5 grams or more of crack cocaine within

1000 feet of a school, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(B)

and 860(a). The three defendants distributed the drugs near the St. Francis-Xavier and

Dickinson Elementary schools in Southeast Grand Rapids. For their involvement in distributing

the drugs, the Court sentenced Saffore and Anderson each to a term of 188 months (15 years and eight months) in prison and sentenced Ms. Crawford to a term of 46 months (three years and

eight months) in prison. The Court sentenced Mr. Anderson to a concurrent term of 120 months

(10 years) for his possession of a firearm as a convicted felon, in violation of Title 18, United

States Code, Section 922(g)(1). Saffore and Anderson qualified as “career offenders” under

federal sentencing guidelines because of their criminal records. Co-defendant Jimmy Smith

continues to await sentencing, and co-defendant Robert Willis remains at large. The charge

against Willis remains merely an accusation, and he is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

The convictions are related to a federal investigation of the distribution of controlled substances and possession of firearms in areas near schools and playgrounds on the Southeast side of Grand Rapids. “Drug dealing and the illegal possession of guns are dangerous threats to our communities, and even more so when they are near schools,” stated SAC Goddard. “We partnered with the Grand Rapids Police Department to attack the problem that plagued the school zone area of St. Francis-Xavier and Dickinson Elementary schools in Southeast Grand Rapids, and we will continue to focus our efforts on reducing gun and drug violence,” she added.

The case is being prosecuted on behalf of the United States of America by Assistant U.S.

Attorneys Andrew Byerly Birge and Phillip J. Green

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