

U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

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Newport News, Virginia

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia announced that Fabia Sutphin, 20, of Newport News, was sentenced today to 264 months in prison. He pled guilty on January 20, 2004, to possession with intent to distribute more than five grams of crack cocaine and discharging a firearm during a drug trafficking offense.

The charges arose as the result of a shoot-out with police on April 16, 2003, in the Forrest Drive area of Newport News, Virginia. The shooting occurred when Newport News police officers, working in an undercover capacity, observed Sutphin selling crack cocaine. When attempts were made to arrest him, he fled. During the pursuit, Sutphin drew a handgun and discharged it. The officers returned fire, striking and capturing him. When he was arrested he had in his possession money, digital scales and more than 45 grams of crack cocaine.

Mr. McNulty stated: "The hopes of all law-abiding residents of Newport News depend in large measure on getting violent criminals off the streets."

This case was investigated by the Newport News Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant United States Attorney Eric M. Hurt prosecuted the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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