



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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LAWRENCE MAN CONVICTED OF SELLING CRACK NEAR SCHOOL

KANSAS CITY, KAN. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **James H. McKinney, Jr.**, 22, Lawrence, was found guilty Oct. 22 following a three-day jury trial. McKinney was convicted on four counts: conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of a public elementary school, possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine within 1,000 of a public elementary school, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and maintaining a residence within 1,000 feet of a public elementary school with the purpose of distributing crack cocaine.

According to trial testimony, police received complaints about traffic in the area of 339 Elm, Apartment 7, in Lawrence, Kan., which is within 1,000 feet of Woodlawn Elementary School. Neighbors told officers that vehicles were coming and going often from the residence, sometimes several times a day. Police set up surveillance and stopped an individual leaving the residence with a small quantity of crack cocaine. That person agreed to cooperate with investigators and made a controlled purchase of .44 grams of crack cocaine.

A search warrant served April 12, 2003, resulted in the seizure of more than 12 grams of crack cocaine, more than \$1,200 cash and a .45-caliber handgun.

McKinney is scheduled for sentencing at 3 p.m., Jan. 3, 2005 before U.S. District Court Judge G. Thomas VanBebber. He faces a maximum penalty of not less than five years and not more than 80 years in federal prison, as well as a \$4 million fine, on the conspiracy count and on the possession with intent to distribute count; not less than five years and not more than life in prison, as well as a \$250,000 fine, on the firearm charge; and up to 40 years in prison and a \$2 million fine on the charge of maintaining a residence for the purpose of distributing crack cocaine.

Melgren commended the work of the Lawrence Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which investigated the case, and Terra D. Morehead, who prosecuted the case.

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