



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lancaster County Fugitive Sentenced to Life After Three Years on the Run

Columbia, S.C.---- A Lancaster County man was sentenced in federal court late last Friday after being a fugitive for more than three years, U.S. Attorney Reggie Lloyd said. James Blackmon, 38, was sentenced to life in prison by Senior U.S. District Court Judge Matthew J. Perry, Jr.

In December 2002, the Lancaster County Drug and Violent Crime Task Force received a tip that Blackmon had large amounts of drugs in his house. Agents conducted a search and found more than 100 grams of crack cocaine, 200 grams of powder cocaine, a pound of marijuana, electronic scales, a loaded .45 caliber pistol, and more than \$3,500 in drug money.

Blackmon pled guilty to federal drug charges in 2004 and was released on bond while awaiting sentencing. He failed to appear for court in October 2004, and remained a fugitive until he was arrested earlier this month at a traffic stop in Rock Hill.

The case was investigated by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney William K. Witherspoon of the Columbia office handled the case.

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