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NEWS RELEASE

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SELLING CRACK COCAINE NEAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SENDS LAWRENCE MAN TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS

KANSAS CITY, KAN. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **L.C. Allen**, 31, Lawrence, Kan., was sentenced Oct. 4, 2004 by U.S. District Judge G. Thomas VanBebber to **70 months in federal prison, without parole, followed by eight years of supervised release.**

Allen entered a guilty plea July 19, 2004 to four drug charges including: one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 5 grams or more of crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of a public elementary school; one count of distribution of crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of a public elementary school; one count of possession with intent to distribute 5 grams or more of crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of a public elementary school; and one count of maintaining a residence to distribute crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of a public elementary school.

In his plea, Allen, who went by the nickname “Black,” admitted that from January through April 2003 he paid rent and sold crack cocaine at 339 Elm in Lawrence, Kan., which is within 1,000 feet of Woodlawn Elementary School. The Lawrence Police Department put the house under surveillance after receiving complaints from neighbors who said vehicles were often coming and going from the house, some of them returning several times a day. One individual stopped by police after leaving the house was found to possess crack cocaine and agreed to assist investigators by buying more. Executing a search warrant, police found more than 13 grams of crack cocaine in the house, along with more than \$1,200 cash and a loaded .45 caliber handgun under a pillow on a bed.

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.