



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER SENTENCED FOR PARTICIPATION IN MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that STEVEN KELLER, 39, Plainfield, Indiana, was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following his previously entered guilty plea to having conspired to possess more than 100 kilograms of marijuana with the intent to distribute. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Indiana State Police, and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

KELLER, the owner of a local trucking company, conspired with various individuals, including Christopher Spaulding, a former reserve deputy with the then Marion County Sheriff's Department, to possess more than 100 kilograms of marijuana with the intent to distribute. KELLER supplied the marijuana that was distributed in the Indianapolis area by other members of the conspiracy, including Spaulding. Spaulding, who possessed a firearm on several occasions when he possessed marijuana with the intent to distribute during the course of this conspiracy, was previously sentenced to a period of 360 months' incarceration.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorneys Joe H. Vaughn and Bradley Blackington, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed 4 years supervised release following KELLER's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, KELLER must serve a period of 13 months' home confinement and perform community service. KELLER also forfeited a total of \$58,358 in cash.

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