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<u>WEEK IN REVIEW – SOUTH BEND</u>

South Bend, Indiana —The United States Attorney's Office announced the following activity in Federal Court:

PLEAS:

> ➢ Rick Franklin, 55, of Mishawaka, Indiana, pled guilty before Magistrate Judge Christopher A. Nuechterlein to the felony offense of knowingly and intentionally possessing a vehicle which had altered or removed VIN numbers with the intent to dispose of the vehicle. Magistrate Nuechterlein is recommending that the district court accept the tendered guilty plea. Parties have 14 days in which to object to the magistrate judge's recommendation. This charge was filed as a result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Sentencing has been set for 2/18/2014. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Schaffer.

If convicted in court, any specific sentence to be imposed will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

DISPOSITIONS:

> ➢ Ruben Fernandez, 32, of Cassopolis, Indiana was sentenced by District Judge Robert L. Miller Jr. to 102 months imprisonment and 3 years supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of participating in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine. According to documents filed in this case, from 2003 through the early part of 2010, Fernandez worked with others to distribute cocaine. Fernandez was involved in purchasing vehicles that were used to ship drug proceeds to Texas and across the country. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney William Grimmer.