

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102



Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Acting U.S. Attorney

More Information? Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

News on the Internet: News Releases and related documents are posted at our website.
Go to: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

Contact:

Michael Drewniak, Public Affairs Officer
973-645-2888

davi0518.rel

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2009

Suspended Newark Police Detective Sentenced to 12 Months in
Prison for Laundering Gambling and Drug Proceeds

(More)

Public Affairs Office
Michael Drewniak, PAO

973-645-2888

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

NEWARK – Suspended Newark Police Department Detective Michelle Davis was sentenced to 12 months in federal prison today for her conviction on charges of conspiracy to commit money laundering and three substantive money laundering counts, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr. announced.

U.S. District Judge Katharine S. Hayden, who presided over the two-week trial, also ordered Davis, 37, of Hillside, to serve three years of supervised release upon the completion of her prison term.

On Oct. 28, 2008, after two-and-a-half hours of deliberations, a federal jury returned guilty verdicts on all five counts contained in a Superseding Indictment, which was returned in September 2008.

The money laundering convictions related to Davis' efforts to aid Rasheem Small, a Newark heroin dealer and operator of an illegal gambling establishment, to conceal the source of illegal proceeds from these criminal enterprises. Davis frequented the illegal gambling business, operated out of a social club at 116 Badger Ave. in Newark, beginning in 2002 up to the time of her arrest in December 2007.

Testimony revealed that, at the gambling establishment, Davis associated with some of Newark's most successful and notorious drug dealers, who would place wagers of up to tens of thousands of dollars at a time. Testimony revealed that Small earned up to \$10,000 a day from his cut of the gambling business profits. The heroin distribution ring operated by Small's partner, Abdullah Meyers, earned up to \$100,000 per week in profits. Small and Meyers pleaded guilty to drug distribution and money laundering charges and have been sentenced to prison terms of 102 months and 60 months, respectively.

Davis, knowing that Small paid for a \$49,000 Range Rover vehicle with the proceeds of illegal gambling, registered the vehicle in her name to conceal the true ownership of the vehicle. Additionally, she received approximately \$6,000 in cash from Small and then wrote two checks, one drawn on the Newark Police Federal Credit Union, to pay for Small's air-conditioning unit at his luxury home in East Orange, knowing that the checks she issued would conceal the source of the illegal gambling money.

An original Indictment in the case was returned in November 2007. Davis was arrested a couple of weeks later in December 2007. Davis was then suspended without pay from the Newark Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Robert Frazer and Anthony Mahajan, of the U.S. Attorney's Office Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Marra credited Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in

Charge Gerard P. McAleer, and Special Agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge William P. Offord, with the investigation of the Small drug organization and Davis and for their support and expertise in the trial phase of the case. Marra also thanked the Newark Police Department and Police Director Gary McCarthy for their cooperation during the investigation and prosecution.

-end-

Counsel for defendants:
Henry Klingeman, Esq., Newark, for Davis