

NEWS

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Willingboro Man Charged with Distribution of Crack Cocaine

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Willingboro man was arrested yesterday evening on a one-count criminal Complaint charging him with distribution and possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra announced.

The Complaint, which was issued on February 24, 2009, alleges that on three separate occasions in May and June 2008, Eric Williams, 25, a.k.a. “Eric Bryant” sold quantities of crack cocaine to an individual who was assisting law enforcement authorities.

The defendant made an initial appearance in federal court today before U.S. Magistrate Ann Marie Donio, who detained the defendant pending a bail hearing scheduled for March 2. At the hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Smith, in arguing for the defendant’s detention, told the court that Williams allegedly is a member of a violent Burlington County street gang known as “Muslims Over Everything” or “MOE” which law enforcement authorities believe is involved in a violent street war with members of a Trenton set of the national Bloods street gang. Assistant U.S. Attorney Smith also argued to the court that at the time of Williams’ arrest he had a loaded .357 caliber handgun in his waistband.

According to the Complaint, on May 22, 2008, the confidential source (“CS”) arranged to purchase 50 grams of crack cocaine for \$1,400 from Williams. Later that same day, Williams allegedly met the CS at a parking lot in Willingboro and sold the CS approximately 49.2 grams of crack cocaine.

On June 3, 2008, during the course of several recorded telephone calls, the CS negotiated with Williams to buy 100 grams of crack cocaine at a price of \$30 dollars per gram, according to the Complaint. Allegedly, during one of the telephone calls, Williams’ co-conspirator, identified in the complaint as “T.P.,” answered the telephone and told the CS that Williams would call the CS back. Eventually Williams did call the CS back and agreed to meet the CS at the same location they had met for the prior drug transaction. At approximately 3:00 p.m. that same day, law enforcement officers observed Williams and T.P. exit an apartment unit at the Cooperstown Apartments in Edgewater Park and get into a green Dodge minivan. At approximately 5:20 p.m., law enforcement officers observed T.P. and Williams pull into the parking lot at the prearranged meeting location. After the CS’s vehicle pulled into the parking lot, Williams got into the passenger side the CS’s vehicle and gave the CS approximately 98.7 grams in exchange for \$3,000.

Again on June 18, 2008, the CS called Williams to arrange the purchasing 100 grams of crack cocaine. During subsequent phone conversations, Williams told the CS that he only had “74” and the cost would be \$32 dollars per gram. The CS eventually agreed to purchase 70 grams for the price of \$32 dollars per gram and they agreed to meet at the same location. Later that same day, Williams and another male arrived at the meeting place in a red Dodge Neon. Williams then got into the CS’s vehicle and sold 68.5 grams of crack cocaine to the CS in exchange for \$2,240.

The Complaint was unsealed following William's arrest at approximately 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 25, by Special Agents with the FBI and ATF, along with Investigators with the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office.

Despite the charges set forth in the complaint, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and federal law.

The charge of distribution and possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine carries a mandatory minimum prison term of 10 years and maximum statutory sentence of life, and a fine of up to \$4 million.

In determining an actual sentence, the judge to whom the case is assigned would, upon a conviction, consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Marra credited Special Agents with the FBI's Trenton Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun in Newark; ATF, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Matthew W. Horace in Newark; and Investigators with the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Robert D. Bernardi, with the investigation leading to the criminal complaint.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jason M. Richardson and Kevin Smith of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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