



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2009
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LEADER OF MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

COLUMBUS – Donald Gene Dailey, Jr., 40, of Pataskala was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 240 months imprisonment for leading a marijuana trafficking enterprise that grossed more than \$10 million between March 2007 and March 2008.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Anthony C. Marotta, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration; Jose Gonzalez, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, and Columbus Police Chief Walter Distelzweig announced the sentence handed down today by United States District Judge Michael H. Watson.

Dailey pleaded guilty on March 17, 2009 to conspiracy, drug, firearm and tax crimes.

Dailey's sentence includes 20 years imprisonment for his plea of guilty to conspiracy to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana, ten years imprisonment for money laundering, and three years for filing a false federal income tax return for 2006 by not reporting income from the drug trafficking. Judge Watson ordered the sentences to run concurrently. Dailey was also ordered to forfeit his interests in assets seized during the course of the investigation including eight houses, \$4.2 million in cash, 83 firearms and 14 vehicles.

Dailey admitted that he recruited 20 other people to be part of the trafficking conspiracy between 2005 and Dailey's arrest in 2008. Dailey has been in custody since his arrest. The organization was responsible for trafficking more than 10,000 and less than 30,000 kilograms of marijuana during that period.

Dailey and the others were indicted in October, 2008 at the conclusion of an investigation known as "Operation Rolling Thunder." The organization transported and sold more than 1,000 kilograms between Mexico and Dailey's Licking County home between January 2000 and the date of the indictment. Agents who executed search warrants at the home and in a recreational vehicle on Dailey's property recovered more than \$4 million in cash. Another \$1.6 million was seized in December 2008 from a Huron County farm where it was buried.

Stewart also commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Dave DeVillers who prosecuted the case.

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