

# PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ROCK HILL MAN CONVICTED OF CRACK CONSPIRACY**

**Columbia, South Carolina** – United States Attorney Bill Nettles announced today that a jury found Hendrick “Tony” Cousar guilty in federal court in Columbia, South Carolina. Cousar was convicted of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and the actual distribution of crack cocaine (Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 and 846). Mr. Nettles stated that based on the substantial drug weight found by the jury and Cousar’s prior crack cocaine distribution conviction, Cousar is facing a mandatory minimum sentence of twenty years as a result of his conviction. United States District Judge Joseph F. Anderson presided over the trial and will impose the sentence in the coming months.

Evidence presented during the trial showed that during the last several years Cousar operated a drug business in Rock Hill, South Carolina. As part of his drug trafficking, the

evidence showed that Cousar was supplied powder cocaine and crack cocaine from individuals in South Carolina and North Carolina. Cousar then distributed that crack through a retail distribution network in and around Rock Hill. The trial included evidence that Cousar distributed hundreds of grams of crack cocaine. Cousar's drug conspiracy came to an end when agents used a confidential informant to make a controlled purchase of crack cocaine from Cousar's distribution network, leading to the arrest of Cousar while he was in possession of thousands of dollars of drug proceeds.

The case was investigated through a cooperative effort of officers and agents of the York County Multijurisdictional Drug Enforcement Unit, York County Sheriff's Office, Chester County Sheriff's Office, State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jay N. Richardson and T. DeWayne Pearson.

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