



# PRESS NOTICE

## W. WALTER WILKINS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **NEWBERRY MAN ENTERS GUILTY PLEA TO FEDERAL DRUG INDICTMENT ON THE MORNING OF TRIAL**

COLUMBIA, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins stated that Terrio Tyrell Jones, age 29, of Newberry, entered a guilty plea this morning to all counts of a federal drug indictment moments before the trial was set to begin. The indictment alleged that Jones possessed with the intent to distribute large amounts of crack cocaine, powder cocaine, ecstasy, and marijuana on multiple occasions between December of 2006 and March of 2009. United States District Judge Henry F. Floyd of Spartanburg accepted the plea and will impose sentence after he has reviewed the presentence report which will be prepared by the U.S. Probation Office.

Evidence in the case established that in December 2006, officers with the Newberry Police Department stopped Jones at a license checkpoint. Jones did not have a valid driver's license and initially gave officers a false name. The officers discovered a ziplock freezer bag containing 12.20 grams of crack cocaine, 2.07 grams of cocaine, 17 ecstasy pills, and \$656 in cash.

In June 2007, deputies with the Newberry County Sheriff's Office encountered Jones on Brown Chapel Road. As a deputy approached, Jones ran away, discarding a digital scale as he fled. The deputy caught Jones and recovered a bag he was carrying that contained 49.62 grams of crack cocaine, 6.95 grams of cocaine, 3 ecstasy pills, and 45 grams of marijuana.

In July 2008, a trooper with the South Carolina Highway Patrol observed a vehicle turn into a driveway in what he believed was an effort to avoid a license checkpoint. After noticing an open container of alcohol in the vehicle, the officer asked Jones, who had given him a false name, to step out of the vehicle. After Jones attempted to run, the officer secured him and retrieved a Newport cigarette pack that Jones dropped. The pack contained 1.58 grams of crack cocaine.

Lastly, in March 2009, the Newberry County Sheriff's Office received a call that Jones was sitting in a vehicle at an apartment complex in Newberry County and was in possession of drugs. Deputies responded, and Jones attempted to drive away as they approached. A brief vehicle pursuit led to a foot chase, and Jones was arrested. Deputies retraced Jones' path and found 283.55 grams of marijuana he had discarded.

Jones faces a statutory mandatory minimum penalty of five years in federal prison and a possible maximum sentence of 40 years, and a fine of \$4 million dollars.

The case was investigated by the Newberry County Sheriff's Office, the Newberry Police Department, the South Carolina Highway Patrol, and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED). Assistant United States Attorneys Lance Crick and Andy Moorman of the Greenville Office handled the case.

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