

PRESS RELEASE

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WAUSAU MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS FOR DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Johnny Bruce Mathews, 27, Wausau, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to twenty years in federal prison for distribution of crack cocaine. Mathews pleaded guilty on January 13, 2009, to possessing 50 grams or more of cocaine base with intent to distribute.

Mathews sold crack cocaine to a police informant in Wausau on three different occasions in February 2008. Officers with the Marathon County Special Investigations Unit then executed a search warrant on Mathews's home on February 28, 2008.

Officers found two police scanners, two walkie-talkies and a box of sandwich bags on the kitchen table. In the refrigerator, officers found cans of energy drinks with false bottoms and with bags of crack cocaine hidden inside. Officers also found crack cocaine individually packaged in plastic baggies in a cat food can on a table in the living room, along with a digital scale.

At today's sentencing, Judge Crabb found that Mathews's total relevant conduct exceeded 990 grams of crack cocaine. Judge Crabb also noted that at the time of the

search, Mathews was on state probation for a 2004 drug offense in Marathon County for selling crack cocaine. Judge Crabb ordered that Mathews's federal sentence run concurrent to his state sentence.

The charges against Mathews were the result of an investigation conducted by the Marathon County Special Investigations Unit. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel J. Graber.

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