



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas

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LOCAL GANG LEADER SENTENCED TO 55 YEARS IN PRISON

Little Rock – Bud Cummins, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced that Bobby Glenn Banks, a/k/a “Big C”, age 30, of Little Rock, was sentenced today to 55 years in prison with five years supervised release by the Honorable George Howard, Jr.. Banks’ sentence is the result of multiple verdicts returned by a federal jury on February 7, 2006. In addition to various drug trafficking offenses, Banks was also convicted of endeavoring to intimidate a judicial officer by threat.

Banks and sixteen of his associates were involved in a large-scale conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in the Little Rock area. According to witness testimony during trial, Banks was the leader of a criminal organization that operated a series of crack houses in the Central High neighborhood. This activity took place from December 1999 to November 2004. At trial, numerous individuals testified that Banks operated his crack houses through a regime of terror involving threats and violence. One witness testified that Banks held a loaded gun to her head and threatened to kill her and her family if the witness ever informed the police of Banks’ drug trafficking activities.

After his arraignment in December 2004, Banks was released to home incarceration with electronic monitoring. On June 5, 2005, Banks absconded from his home and remained a fugitive for over three months. Officers with the Little Rock Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation executed a search warrant on September 13, 2005 at the home of Banks’ girlfriend, Katrina Harshaw. There officers discovered Banks hiding in the crawl space of the house, an area Banks was able to access through a secret trap door in the floor of a bathroom closet. Banks has remained in custody ever since his capture in September 2005.

Banks was the reputed leader of the 23rd Street Crips, sometimes referred to as the Wolfe Street Crips. He has a long history of run-ins with the law. This history includes a 1994 federal

conviction for committing a drive-by shooting at a house located within a school zone on Dennison Street. Banks has also been previously acquitted of drug trafficking charges in federal court. In addition, Banks was prominently featured in the 1993 HBO documentary entitled *Gang War: Bangin' in Little Rock*.

United States Attorney Bud Cummins stated, "Banks was a thorn in the side of law enforcement for many years. Society gave him many chances, but this is it for him."

The investigation of Banks and his associates was handled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Little Rock Police Department and the North Little Rock Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Pat Harris and Jane Duke.

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