



## U.S. Department of Justice

### *United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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#### **NEWPORT ALDERMAN PLEADS GUILTY** **TO DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE**

**Little Rock** - Bud Cummins, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced today that Pinkey McFarlin, age 56, of Newport, Arkansas, entered a plea of guilty to a Superseding Information for his role in conspiring to distribute cocaine base, also known as crack cocaine. McFarlin, a Newport city alderman who recently lost his bid for re-election, entered his plea on what was the seventh day of a federal trial in which he faced multiple drug trafficking charges, as well as a charge of witness intimidation. The case was presided over by United States District Judge George Howard, Jr.

"It is relatively unusual for a defendant to plead guilty so late in the game, but I think it just shows that the officers and agents did a real good job putting together their investigation and our people did a tremendous job presenting the case to the jury," stated Cummins. "Sometimes, a defendant sees the writing on the wall and does something practical to cut their losses and perhaps that is what occurred here. We're committed to prosecuting drug dealers whether we find them in a crack house or in city hall."

During the change of plea proceedings, McFarlin admitted to selling a total of 102 grams of crack cocaine to a confidential informant on twelve separate occasions in 2004. McFarlin is expected to be sentenced by District Judge Howard in the next 45-60 days, after completion of the customary presentence investigation report. McFarlin faces a statutory maximum penalty of not more than 5 years imprisonment and a fine of not more than \$250,000.

The investigation was conducted by the Third Judicial District Drug Task Force, the Newport Police Department, and the Little Rock District Office for the Drug Enforcement Administration. Assistant United States Attorneys Anne Gardner and Patrick Harris prosecuted the case on behalf of the United States.

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