



U.S. Department of Justice

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

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**LITTLE ROCK MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL
SEX TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CHARGES**

LITTLE ROCK – United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Jane W. Duke, and Thomas J. Browne, Special Agent in Charge of the Little Rock Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced today that Tommy Handy a/k/a "Tom Tom", waived indictment and pleaded guilty to a federal charge of sex trafficking an underage female. Chief United States District Judge J. Leon Holmes accepted Cooney's guilty plea.

During the hearing, Handy admitted he knew an underage female with the initials of "DB" was between the ages of 14 and 18 when she was caused to engage in commercial sex acts and that Handy benefitted from her engaging in the commercial sex acts. Pursuant to the plea agreement, the pending indictment was dismissed upon the Court's acceptance of Handy's plea to the sex trafficking charge. Handy's plea exposes him to a minimum of ten years and up to life imprisonment. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled by the court. Handy remains in custody pending his sentencing.

Handy's co-defendant, Everett Cooney, who is also in custody, also pleaded guilty to a sex trafficking charge on July 10, 2009 and is awaiting sentencing.

The case is the result of a joint investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and the Little Rock Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Ray White and Civil Rights Division Trial Attorney Jim Felte.

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For more information, see news release dated February 5, 2009 at http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/are/news_releases/PDFs_2009News_Releases/2009_index.html.