



Department of Justice

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LOCAL DEALER IN COCAINE AND HEROIN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

Barlow Had Been Selling Drugs In English Avenue Community For Years

ATLANTA, GA - SEBASTIAN ERSKINE BARLOW, 41, of Atlanta, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Orinda D. Evans to serve over 16 years in federal prison on charges of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute at least 5 kilograms of cocaine and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said of the case, "This long-time narcotics dealer apparently assumed that he could continue to ply his illegal trade in the English Avenue neighborhood with virtual impunity--but he was wrong. Today, as a result of the solid investigative teamwork of the David G. Wilhelm OCADETF Strike Force and the Atlanta Police Department, this defendant is off the streets, out of the community, and where he belongs: in prison."

"Drug dealers bring down our cities in so many different ways--often contributing to the violence that plagues the good people of our communities," said Atlanta Police Chief George N. Turner. "The Atlanta Police Department is proud to have participated in the arrest and conviction of this repeat offender. Our streets are safer as a result."

BARLOW was sentenced to 16 years, 8 months in prison to be followed by a total of 10 years of supervised release on the charges. BARLOW pleaded guilty to the charges on June 22, 2010.

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: On February 3, 2009, Atlanta Police Officers patrolling the English Avenue Community of northwest Atlanta in a marked patrol car stopped a car driven by BARLOW after a traffic violation. At the time of the stop, BARLOW was found to be carrying about 15 grams of a mixture containing heroin in his pocket. He also had a loaded handgun and extra ammunition in the glove compartment of the car. In later statements to police officers, federal agents and the Court, BARLOW admitted that he sold heroin regularly and had sold about 4 grams of heroin every two days since December 2008, including about 128 grams of heroin in the 60 days before his arrest. BARLOW also admitted that in the period covering 2006-2008, using the services of others, he had sold between 4.5 and 9 ounces of cocaine, in sacks, every two weeks. Before the

indictment in this case, BARLOW already had been convicted of several narcotics felonies, including a prior federal conviction for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine.

This case was investigated by officers and agents of the David G. Wilhelm OCEETF Strike Force and the Atlanta Police Department, as part of a joint venture aimed at identifying, investigating, arresting and prosecuting armed members of narcotics-trafficking organizations operating in Atlanta's English Avenue community.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta recommends that parents and children learn about the dangers of drugs at the following web site: www.justthinktwice.com.

Special Assistant United States Attorney Jane Wilcox Swift prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the Home Page for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.justice.gov/usao/gan.