

# Department of Justice

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## **PEORIA MAN CHARGED WITH HEROIN TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY**

### **10 Charged to Date in "Operation Blue Horse" Targeting Heroin Distribution in Peoria**

Peoria, Ill. – A Peoria, Ill., man is making his initial appearance today in federal court after he was arrested yesterday on charges that he conspired to distribute heroin in Peoria. Earlier this week, a grand jury returned the single-count indictment that charges Lamar Burton, 51, and Shirley Williams, 53, also of Peoria, with conspiracy to distribute more than 100 grams of heroin over the past year, from June 2011 to June 2012.

The charges are the most recent as a result of an ongoing Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation known as "Operation Blue Horse." Investigative agencies participating in the task force investigation include the Drug Enforcement Administration, Springfield, Ill.; the Peoria Police Department; Peoria County Sheriff's Office; the Peoria County State's Attorney's Office; and, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois. The cases are being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tate Chambers.

If convicted, for the crime of conspiracy to distribute more than 100 grams of heroin, the statutory penalty is five to 40 years in prison; if a defendant has one or more prior felony drug convictions, the penalty is 10 years to life in prison.

Eight other defendants have previously been charged as a result of the "Operation Blue Horse" investigation of drug trafficking:

Gene Alexander, 65, and Nancy E. Alexander, 54, have each pled guilty to possession of heroin with intent to distribute and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Sentencing has been scheduled for Nov. 2, and Nov. 30, respectively.

Elsandor Miller, 26, is charged with possession of heroin with intent to distribute and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. His next scheduled court hearing is July 25.

Ishame Lakes, 42, charged with possession of heroin with intent to distribute; trial date scheduled Oct. 1, 2012.

Darnell Moore II, 26, charged with possession of more than 28 grams of crack cocaine and cocaine with intent to distribute; scheduled trial date is Sept. 10, 2012.

Gregory Sanford, 30, of Peoria, and Ricky Jackson, 39, of Chicago, charged with possession of more than 500 grams of cocaine with intent to distribute; scheduled trial date is Sept. 10, 2012.

(More)

Larry E. Watts, 22, of Bartonville, charged with possession with intent to distribute heroin; possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime; and felon in possession of a firearm; report regarding court-ordered evaluation due Oct. 9, 2012.

If convicted, for the offense of possession of heroin with intent to distribute, the statutory penalty is up to 20 years in prison; if a defendant has a prior felony drug conviction, the penalty is up to 30 years in prison.

The penalty for possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime is a mandatory five years in prison to be served consecutive to any other prison term for the underlying drug trafficking offense; for felon in possession of a firearm, the penalty is up to 10 years in prison.

If convicted, for possession of more than 28 grams of crack cocaine and cocaine with intent to distribute, and for the offense of possession of more than 500 grams of cocaine with intent to distribute, the penalty is five to 40 years in prison.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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