

Department of Justice

United States Attorney James A. Lewis
Central District of Illinois

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012
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CONTACT: SHARON PAUL
PHONE: (217) 492-4450

Chicago Man Convicted for Three Murders Related to Drug-Trafficking in Danville

Urbana, Ill. – A jury deliberated approximately three hours today before convicting a Chicago man of three counts of using a firearm during a drug-trafficking crime causing the deaths of three people in Danville, Ill., in 2007. Freddell Bryant, 34, also known as “Freddy Moe,” of Chicago, is already serving a 25-year federal prison term for his role in the cocaine and crack cocaine distribution conspiracy. At sentencing, scheduled on Mar. 15, 2013, Bryant faces up to life in prison on each of the counts.

The trial began on Monday, Dec. 3, before U.S. District Judge Michael P. McCuskey, and concluded this morning with closing statements. The jury found that on Mar. 27, 2007, Bryant caused the death of Rodney Pepper, 30; Madisen E. Leverenz, 19; and Tabreyan L. McCullough, 21.

During the trial, the government presented evidence that on March 24, 2007, Bryant learned that multiple kilograms of cocaine that he had McCullough hold for him had been taken from her Danville home. On March 25, 2007, Bryant and others took McCullough to an apartment at 1707 East Main Street to confront Leverenz and Pepper, whom Bryant believed were involved in taking the cocaine. Further evidence was presented that during the ensuing confrontation, Bryant used and carried a firearm during and in relation to the drug conspiracy and that he used the firearm which resulted in the murder of Pepper, Leverenz and McCullough.

In March 2009, Bryant pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine in Vermilion County from October 2003 to March 2007. Bryant was sentenced on Apr. 29, 2010, to serve 300 months (25 years) in federal prison. Bryant has remained in federal law enforcement custody since his arrest in Chicago in May 2007.

The charges were investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Danville Police Department, the Vermilion County Metropolitan Enforcement Group, and the Illinois State Police. At trial, the government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Eugene L. Miller and Jason M. Bohm. The case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of Illinois, Urbana Division, in cooperation with the Vermilion County State’s Attorney’s office.

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