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WEEK IN REVIEW – HAMMOND

Hammond, Indiana- The United States Attorney's Office announced the following:

Jermaine Jackson, 29, of Gary, Indiana, was charged in a criminal complaint with possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine and possession with intent to distribute marijuana following execution of a search warrant on his residence, in which approximately 6.6 gross grams of crack cocaine, approximately 1,535 gross grams of marijuana, and a shotgun, and ammunition were recovered. Jackson has two prior felony convictions for dealing cocaine, for which he spent time in the Indiana Department of Corrections. Jackson is being detained pending a detention hearing set for Wednesday, August 24, 2011. This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation GRIT Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dean Lanter.

Christian Martinez, 21, a citizen of Mexico in the United States illegally, pled guilty before Chief Judge Philip Simon to count one of an Indictment charging him with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribute cocaine. Sentencing has been set for 11/22/11. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration HIDTA Task Force. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Chang-Adiga.

Shaun Kimbrough, 21, of Gary, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to 3 years of probation after pleading guilty to count one of an Indictment charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Gary Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Joshua Kolar.

Marlone Bell, 35, of Chicago, Illinois, pled guilty before Senior Judge James T. Moody to counts one through four of an Indictment charging him with distribution of heroin. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration

HIDTA Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Nozick.

Shanda Evans, 44, of Dyer, Indiana, pled guilty before Chief Judge Philip Simon to counts one through three of an Indictment charging her with preparation of false income tax returns. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Susan Collins.

Melissa Sims, 37, of Lowell, Indiana, was sentenced by Chief Judge Philip Simon to 15 months imprisonment and ordered to pay \$77,882 in restitution after pleading guilty to count one of an Indictment charging her with lying about stealing nearly \$80,000 in evidence that she kept for herself instead of properly returning various amounts of cash as she claimed to have done. Sims worked as an evidence control technician for the FBI in Merrillville from 1996 to September 2008. The case was investigated by the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago handled the prosecution in the Northern District of Indiana.

Chopper Loughran, 29, of Lake Station, Indiana, pled guilty before Senior Judge James T. Moody to count one of an Indictment charging her with making false statements in connection with federal Workers' Compensation Benefits. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by United States Postal Inspection Service Office of the Inspector General and the United States Department of Labor-Office of the Inspector General. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas Ratcliffe.

John Sellers III, 20, of Gary, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to 46 months imprisonment and 2 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to count one of an Indictment charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives HIDTA Task Force and the Lake County Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas Padilla.

Patrick Roy, 21, of Gary, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to 15 months imprisonment and 2 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to count one of an Indictment charging him with making false statements in the purchase of a firearm. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives HIDTA Task Force and the Gary Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas Padilla.

The United States Attorney's Office emphasized that a Complaint is merely an allegation and that all persons charged are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.