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WEEK IN REVIEW – HAMMOND

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

PLEAS:

- Darren A. Dunham, 47, of Kokomo, Indiana, pled guilty before Chief Judge Philip Simon to the felony offenses of assisting another in filing false tax returns, filing false tax returns and identity theft. Sentencing has been set for 4/25/12. 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 Gary Bell.
- Krystal Lee, 32, of Clinton, Indiana, pled guilty before Chief Judge Philip Simon to the felony offense of possession of pseudoephedrine to manufacture methamphetamine. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Indiana State Police and the Porter County Sheriff's Department. Sentencing has been set for 5/4/12. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Nozick.
- Nathaniel Hamilton, 55, of Gary, Indiana, pled guilty before Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich to the felony offense of distribution of heroin. In his plea agreement, Hamilton agreed that he was responsible for the distribution of between 100 and 400 grams of heroin and that he possessed a firearm in connection with his drug offenses. Hamilton has prior felony convictions for aggravated battery, armed robbery, two prior convictions for burglary, theft, and illegal possession of a firearm. In this case, firearms, narcotics, cash, and a bullet-proof vest were recovered. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Gary Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dean Lanter.
- Juan Marquez, 35, of East Chicago, Indiana, pled guilty before to the felony offense of reentry of a deported alien. Sentencing has been set for 4/18/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Custom Office of

Homeland Security Investigations and the Drug Enforcement Administration HIDTA Task Force. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Chang-Adiga.

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.

DISPOSITIONS:

- Keshawn Collins, 28, of Gary, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Rudy Lozano to 27 months imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of being a felon in possession of a firearm. In September 2011, Collins was arrested by the Gary Police Department shortly after being observed tossing a firearm in an alley shortly after midnight. Collins has a prior felony conviction for attempted burglary, in addition to 18 misdemeanor convictions, including three prior convictions for domestic battery and one prior conviction for simple battery. 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 Dean Lanter.
- Larry D. Williams, 33, of Gary, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Rudy Lozano to 37 months imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of 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 Gary Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dean Lanter.
- Christopher Laraneta, 41, of Lafayette, Indiana, was sentenced by United States District Judge Rudy Lozano to serve 30 years in prison for his seven felony convictions of receiving, distributing, transporting and possessing child pornography. Judge Lozano ordered Laraneta to serve 240 months imprisonment on each of Counts 2 through 7 of Laraneta's indictment, to run concurrent, and 120 months on Count 8 of his indictment, to run consecutive to his sentences on Counts 2 through 7. Judge Lozano also ordered Laraneta to serve a lifetime term of supervised release following his release from imprisonment and to register as a sex offender in any state where he lives, works or attends school.

The investigation into Laraneta's conduct began in November 2009 when the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received a tip that sexually explicit images of children had been posted to a website using an IP address traced to Laraneta's residence in Lafayette, Indiana. A federal search warrant was obtained and executed at the residence, and law enforcement found child pornography images and videos on Laraneta's computer and related media storage. Laraneta later admitted to law enforcement that the child pornography belonged to him and that he was aroused by the material. A forensic examination of Laraneta's computer revealed over a thousand images and videos depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, including many images depicting minors under the age of 12, and images and videos showing minors

being forced to engage in sadomasochistic and other violent acts. In calculating where Laraneta's conduct placed him under the United States Sentencing Guidelines, Judge Lozano concluded that Laraneta had distributed child pornography in exchange for something of value to him, which was new child pornography images and videos. Judge Lozano also concluded, based on the sworn testimony of victims presented by the government, that Laraneta had engaged in a pattern of activity involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of several minor children during the course of his life.

Two of the victims depicted in the child pornography images and videos Laraneta possessed filed requests with the government seeking restitution from Laraneta to pay for their future psychological counseling and treatment, lost wages, and other expenses. Judge Lozano granted the government's motion for victim restitution and ordered Laraneta to pay restitution of over \$4.2 million to the two victims. The order was joint and several with all other defendants found to possess their images nationwide. Judge Lozano is expected to rule shortly on Laraneta's request that a monthly payment schedule be set which will govern his payment of the restitution ordered by the court.

This case resulted from an investigation by members of the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, including U.S. Immigration and Custom Office of Homeland Security Investigations, the Lafayette Police Department and the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jill Koster.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov.

- Timothy Earl James, 43, of Hammond, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to 71 months imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of 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 Hammond Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas Padilla.