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WEEK IN REVIEW – HAMMOND

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

PLEAS:

- Clifford Spires, 30, of Gary, Indiana, pled guilty before Chief Judge Philip Simon to the felony offense of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Spires has prior felony convictions for robbery in 1999. Sentencing has been set for 6/5/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dean Lanter.
- Desmond Turner, 37, of Chicago, Illinois, pled guilty before Magistrate Judge Paul Cherry to the felony offense of conspiracy to defraud the United States and misuse of a social security number. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Toi Houston.
- Nick Santana, 29, of Chicago Heights, Illinois, pled guilty before Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to the felony offense of conspiracy to distribute vicodin pills. Sentencing has been set for 5/15/12. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Indiana Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Diane Berkowitz.
- Ramon Dagoberto Salinas, Jr., 35, of East Chicago, Indiana, pled guilty before Judge Rudy Lozano to the felony offense of distribution of child pornography and sexual exploitation. The investigation into Salinas' conduct began in September 2011, when law enforcement working in an undercover capacity used a publicly available peer-to-peer file sharing program to download from a user multiple video files depicting children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The results of an administrative subpoena issued to

the internet service provider of the user identified the address of a residence located in Hammond, Indiana. A federal search warrant was subsequently obtained and executed at the residence, where law enforcement found over 60 videos with titles indicative of child pornography on one laptop computer belonging to Salinas. Sentencing has been set for 6/15/12.

This case resulted from an investigation by members of the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, including the U.S. Immigration and Custom Office of Homeland Security Investigations, the Indiana State Police, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Highland Police Department. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jill Koster.

- William Dutro, 33, of Lake Station, Indiana, pled guilty before Judge Rudy Lozano to the felony offense of receiving child pornography. The investigation into Dutro's conduct began in May 2011, when law enforcement working in an undercover capacity used a publicly available peer-to-peer file sharing program to download from a user multiple video files depicting children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The results of an administrative subpoena issued to the internet service provider of the user identified the subscriber as William Dutro. A federal search warrant was subsequently obtained and executed at Dutro's residence in Lake Station, Indiana, where law enforcement found child pornography on one laptop computer and one desk top computer belonging to Dutro. A data card for a Blackberry phone/Internet device was also found during the search and child pornography was located on the data card.

This case resulted from an investigation by members of the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, including the Indiana State Police and the U.S. Immigration and Custom Office of Homeland Security Investigations. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jill Koster.

- Christopher Bunch, 53, of Battleground, Indiana, pled guilty before Judge Rudy Lozano to the felony offense of production of child pornography. The investigation into Bunch's conduct began in July 2011 when Deputies from the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department were dispatched to investigate a complaint of possible child pornography contained in images and videos seized from a digital camera and memory card found at Bunch's home.

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

The United States Attorney's Office emphasized that these charges are merely allegations 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.

DISPOSITIONS:

- Marcus Gilyard, 25, of Hammond, Indiana, was sentenced by Chief Judge Philip Simon to 30 months imprisonment and 2 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of selling a firearm to a convicted felon. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives HIDTA Task Force. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Nozick.
- Chandra Thomas, 33, of Hammond, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to 3 years probation and restitution of \$3929.00 to State Farm Insurance and \$750.00 payable to Travelers Insurance, to be paid joint and several with her co-conspirators, after pleading guilty to the felony offenses of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and insurance fraud utilizing the mail. This case was the result of an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Toi Houston.
- Mario Ruff, 30, of Hammond, Indiana, was sentenced by Chief Judge Philip Simon to 18 months imprisonment and 2 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of possession with the intent to distribute marijuana. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation GRIT Task Force and the Gary Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dean Lanter.