

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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CRIMINAL NO: 10-018

v.

*

SECTION: “J”

DESHON SIGNAL

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FACTUAL BASIS

Should this matter proceed to trial, the United States would prove beyond a reasonable doubt, through credible testimony and reliable evidence, the following facts:

On 10-23-2009, DEA Special Agent Brad Stevens and DEA Task Force Agent Ricky Jackson directed a confidential source (“CS”) to place a recorded phone call to **Deshon Signal** (hereinafter “**Signal**”) to arrange the purchase of two ounces of crack cocaine from him. During the conversation, **Signal** directed the **CS** to meet him at the Target store located in the Clearview Shopping Center in Metairie to make the deal. The **CS** was then provided with cash to purchase the narcotics from **Signal**, and was equipped with an audio recording device. **Signal** showed up at the aforesaid shopping center a few hours later for the meeting with the **CS**. The **CS**, who was followed by agents, arrived at the shopping center moments later. He then spotted **Signal** sitting in a white Toyota Tundra. He then got out of his vehicle and entered the passenger side of **Signal’s** truck. The two then exchanged \$1,600 for approximately 75.5 gross grams of cocaine base. A few moments

later, **Signal** started his truck and drove over to the **CS's** vehicle. The **CS** then exited the truck and got into his car. The **CS** then drove to a prearranged location to meet with the agents. At the meeting place, the **CS** turned over the crack cocaine and the remaining cash he had to the agents. Shortly thereafter, the agents forwarded the crack cocaine to the DEA lab for analysis. The crack cocaine was tested by Forensic Chemist Ted L.Chapman on 11-16-2009. The test revealed that the crack had a net weight of 41.2 grams, and confirmed that it contained cocaine base.

On 11-6-2009, agents Stevens and Jackson directed a **CS** to place a recorded phone call to **Signal** to arrange the purchase of two ounces of crack cocaine from him. During the conversation, **Signal** directed the **CS** to meet him at a Blockbuster store located at the intersection of Clearview and the I-10 service road to make the deal. The **CS** was then provided with cash to purchase the narcotics from **Signal**, and was equipped with an audio recording device. **Signal** showed up in the parking lot of the store for the meeting with the **CS**. The **CS**, who was followed by agents, arrived at the parking lot moments later. He then spotted **Signal** sitting in a white Toyota Tundra. He then exited his vehicle and entered the passenger side of **Signal's** truck. The two then exchanged \$1,900 for approximately 86.9 gross grams of cocaine base. A few moments later, the **CS** exited **Signal's** truck and entered his vehicle. The **CS** then drove to a prearranged location to meet with the agents. At the meeting place, the **CS** turned over the remaining cash he had and the cocaine base to the agents.

A surveillance team then followed **Signal** as he drove his truck away from the Blockbuster store and to an apartment complex located at 2308 Houma Boulevard in Metairie. After arriving at the complex, an unknown black female entered **Signal's** truck. The two then drove to the Elmwood Fitness Center in the Elmwood Shopping Center in Harahan. The surveillance was then terminated.

Shortly thereafter, the agents forwarded the crack cocaine to the DEA lab for analysis. The crack was tested by Forensic Chemist Ted L.Chapman on 11-19-2009. The test revealed that the crack cocaine had a net weight of 55.5 grams, and confirmed that it contained cocaine base.

On 12-2-2009, agents Stevens and Jackson directed a **CS** to place a recorded phone call to **Signal** to arrange the purchase of an ounce of crack cocaine from him. During the conversation, **Signal** directed the **CS** to meet him in the parking lot of the Blockbuster store located at the intersection of Clearview and the I-10 service road in a few hours. The **CS** was then provided with cash to purchase the narcotics from **Signal**, and was equipped with an audio recording device. In the meantime, surveillance units followed **Signal** to a house located at 8796 Houma Drive in Laplace, Louisiana. After arriving at this house, **Signal** and an unknown black female exited the Tundra truck and entered the residence. The **CS** then called **Signal** to find out if he was ready to meet. **Signal** indicated that he needed more time, and would call him when he was five minutes away from the Blockbuster store. **Signal** eventually showed up at the aforesaid location for the meeting with the **CS**. Moments later the **CS**, who was followed by agents, arrived at the Blockbuster store. The female, who had traveled with **Signal**, got out of the truck and entered the Smoothie King store located in the same shopping center as the aforementioned Blockbuster store. The **CS** proceeded to exit his car and enter the passenger side of **Signal's** truck. The two then exchanged \$1,000 for approximately 58.9 gross grams of cocaine base. The **CS** then exited **Signal's** truck and got into his car. The **CS** then drove to a prearranged location to meet with the agents. At the meeting place, the **CS** turned over the crack cocaine and the remaining cash to the agents. The agents forwarded the crack cocaine to the DEA lab for analysis. The crack was tested by Forensic Chemist Ted L.Chapman on 1-14-2010. The test revealed that the crack had a net weight of 26.9

grams, and tested positive for the presence of cocaine base.

On 1-11-2010, agents Stevens and Jackson obtained an arrest warrant for **Signal**. The agents located and arrested **Signal**. After he was taken into custody, Agent Stevens asked **Signal** if he would allow agents to search his apartment located at 2308 Houma Boulevard Apartment 881 Metairie, Louisiana without a search warrant. **Signal** eventually admitted he had an apartment in Metairie, but would not allow the agents to search it without a warrant. As such, the agents obtained a search warrant to search the apartment. After obtaining the warrant, the agents learned that **Signal** had rented the apartment sometime before his arrest, and was the only person listed on the lease as a lessee. The agents then entered and searched the first floor of the apartment and found a Taurus Judge 45/410, 45 caliber handgun, bearing serial number CN749777 in plain view. After taking the revolver into custody, the agents searched the second floor of the apartment, where they located a large piece of crack cocaine and a SWB Cobray 9mm M11 machine pistol, bearing serial number 85-0003953, in the closet of the master bed room. The crack cocaine was field tested by the agents, which confirmed the presence of cocaine. The agents then forwarded the crack cocaine to the DEA for analysis. The crack was tested by Forensic Chemist Ted L.Chapman on 2-10-2010. The test revealed that the crack had a net weight of 31 net grams and tested positive for the presence of cocaine base.

Certified court records would establish that **Signal** was convicted on 5-22-1996, in division "S" of the 24th Judicial District for the Parish of Jefferson, under Docket Number 9505969, for possession with intent to distribute cocaine. Certified copies of court records would also establish that **Signal** was sentenced to serve five years imprisonment with the Louisiana Department of Corrections. This sentence was suspended, and **Signal** was placed on active probation for three

years.

An expert with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”) would testify that the firearms that **Signal** had in his apartment at the time of his arrest met the legal definition of “firearm” as set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 921(a)(3). The ATF expert would also testify that the firearms were not manufactured in the State of Louisiana and therefore, by virtue of the fact that they were recovered in Louisiana on or about 1-11-2010, they had to have crossed state lines and affected interstate commerce.

Deshon Signal hereby admits that he knowingly and intentionally distributed 41.2 net grams of crack cocaine to a **CS** on 10-23-09. He also admits that he knowingly and intentional distributed 55.5 net grams of crack cocaine to a **CS** on 11-6-09, and that he knowingly and intentionally distributed 26.9 net grams of crack cocaine to a **CS** on 12-2-09. He also admits that he knowingly and intentionally possessed with the intent to distribute 31 net grams of crack cocaine, which was found on 1-11-10 in his apartment located on Houma Blvd. in Metairie. He further acknowledges that said conduct constitutes knowing violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A), and 841 (b)(1)(B).

Finally, **Signal** also admits that in furtherance of his above-mentioned drug trafficking crimes and in violation of his status as a prohibited possessor, he was in possession of the above-mentioned

Taurus Judge 45/410, 45 caliber handgun and the SWB Cobray 9mm M11 machine pistol on 1-11-2010, and he acknowledges that said conduct constitutes knowing violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1), 924(a)(2), and 924(c).

DEMETRIE FORD ____/____/____

Counsel for Defendant **DESHON SIGNAL**

DESHON SIGNAL ____/____/____

Defendant

SPIRO G. LATSIS ____/____/____

Assistant United States Attorney