



*United States Attorney
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**LEADER OF NIGHT-AND-DAY CRACK COCAINE ENTERPRISE
IN NEWBURGH IS SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that DAMONE GADSDEN was sentenced today to 25 years' imprisonment for his participation in a conspiracy from August 2005 to February 2006 to distribute crack cocaine in Newburgh, New York. United States District Judge STEPHEN C. ROBINSON imposed the sentence in federal court in White Plains.

The sentence followed a jury trial earlier this year in which GADSDEN was convicted of conspiring to sell more than 50 grams of crack cocaine from August 2005 to February 2006, and of selling approximately one-half gram of crack cocaine on January 27, 2006. (GADSDEN was found not guilty of separate crack conspiracy and firearm offenses charged to have occurred earlier, in 2002.) According to the evidence at trial:

From approximately July 2005 to February 2006 GADSDEN was a leader of a group of more than 10 individuals who sold crack at practically any hour, day or night, from a private residence at 143 North Miller Street in Newburgh. The dealers worked as a team, generally taking turns selling crack to customers, and serving as lookouts when other members of the group were selling to customers. As one of the leaders of the group, GADSDEN participated in deciding who could sell crack at 143 North Miller Street. GADSDEN also served as the "enforcer" of the rules for selling crack at that spot.

Today's sentence is the result of a joint investigation by the United States Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATFE"), the Newburgh Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of ATFE, the Newburgh police and the Orange County officials in this case.

The investigation has also resulted in the conviction

of eight other individuals.

Assistant United States Attorneys MARCIA S. COHEN and RICHARD C. TARLOWE are in charge of the prosecution.

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