



Department of Justice

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LEADER OF LOCAL PHARMACY AND PROPERTY BURGLARY RING SENTENCED

Tampa, FL - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge James D. Whittemore yesterday sentenced Mickey Lemons (42, Spring Hill) to eighteen years in federal prison for conspiring to commit burglaries that resulted in the interstate transportation of stolen vehicles and items valued over \$5,000 and committing pharmacy burglaries that resulted in the possession with intent to distribute Schedule II and III controlled substances, along with eleven other co-defendants. Local and federal law enforcement officers arrested Lemons on November 11, 2010 in Spring Hill, Florida.

Lemons pled guilty on February 11, 2011.

Lemons' co-defendants were arrested on the same indictment in April 2010 and have all pled guilty and have been sentenced respectively, with sentences ranging from probation to nine years in federal prison.

According to court documents, on July 27, 2009, Pasco County Sheriff Bob White stopped a suspicious truck towing several large mowers. Subsequent investigation revealed a large-scale burglary ring led by Lemons that involved thefts of large lawn and construction equipment from local businesses for interstate transportation. The investigation further revealed that the defendants had committed numerous pharmacy burglaries in Hillsborough, Pasco, and Hernando counties, as well as two pharmacy

burglaries in Alabama, that involved thefts of large quantities of Schedule II controlled substances, such as oxycodone, morphine, methadone, and amphetamine, and Schedule III controlled substances, like hydrocodone.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, the Tampa Police Department, the Tarpon Springs Police Department, DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, Georgia Department of Transportation, Ashville (AL) Police Department, and Sylvania (AL) Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kelley Howard-Allen.