

JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE HISTORY

In 1986, the Jackson County Missouri Drug Task Force (JCDF) was organized as a multi-jurisdictional investigative initiative in response to an emerging drug problem within the county. Throughout the 1980's, drug trafficking and an active drug culture were a part of daily life throughout Kansas City, Missouri and much of Jackson County. Illicit drugs, such as crack cocaine, methamphetamine and PCP were openly traded on street corners. Drug houses and methamphetamine labs literally sprung up throughout our County overnight. During its initial years, the JCDF was funded through private donations and one grant.

In 1990, Jackson County residents approved a new one-quarter of one-percent anti-drug sales tax which would later become known as the Community Backed Anti-Drug Tax (COMBAT). The tax would support a broad based attack on drug abuse and drug related violent crimes. One of the enforcement initiatives COMBAT would fund was the JCDF.

The tax was renewed for a seven-year period in 1995, 2004, 2009 and 2016. The COMBAT tax provided the JCDF with an adjusted budget of \$2,183,793 in 2016.

The JCDF is a voluntary law enforcement organization that operates under the direction of an Executive Board comprised of representatives from fourteen jurisdictions in eastern Jackson County. Eight of these agencies supply manpower for the Task Force, while a Legal Advisor and Fiscal Officer are maintained on a contractual and part time basis.

- **Blue Springs Police** - 3 Investigators
- **Buckner Police**
- **Grain Valley Police** – 1 Investigator
- **Grandview Police** - 1 Sergeant, 2 Investigators
- **Greenwood Police**
- **Independence Police** – 1 Sergeant, 3 Investigators
- **Jackson County** – 1 OIC, 2 Administrative Personnel, 1 Property Officer
- **Jackson County Sheriff** – 1 Investigator, 1 Warrant Service Officer
- **Lake Lotawana Police**
- **Lee's Summit Police** - 2 Investigators
- **Lone Jack Police**
- **Missouri State Highway Patrol**
- **Oak Grove Police** - 1 Investigator
- **Raytown Police**
- **Sugar Creek Police** - 1 Investigator

The JCDF also has two non-sworn positions on loan from the following:

- **Missouri National Guard** – 1 Analyst (Non-Sworn)
- **DEA** – 1 Special Agent (Non-Sworn)

HISTORY (CONTINUED)

The County of Jackson has approximately 604.84 square miles. With a population of 687,623 in the 2015 Census, Jackson County is the second most populous of Missouri's counties, after St. Louis County. Jackson County is the central county of the Kansas City, Missouri-Kansas statistical area. The JCDTF primarily focuses on the eastern and southern portions of the county, which includes all suburban jurisdictions and unincorporated areas. The purpose of the JCDTF is to provide a combined and unified response to the drug and narcotics related violent crime problem as it exists in eastern Jackson County, Missouri.

While JCDTF coordinates with all federal, state and local Kansas City area law enforcement agencies, its primary investigative mission and focus continues toward the outlying areas of the county which are not adequately serviced by other agencies. In order to assist in and further these efforts, the process was initiated for several members of the JCDTF to obtain Federal commissions in order to better conduct joint operations. In 2016, the JCDTF participated in an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Homeland Security. These partnerships allowed for the JCDTF to be partially reimbursed for narcotics buy money and overtime costs associated with the federal investigations. The JCDTF formed two (2) additional OCDETF investigations in 2016.

In 2011, an agreement was signed with the Missouri National Guard to provide one Intelligence Analyst to assist with long term investigations. An agreement was also formed with The Office of Homeland Security (Formerly ICE) for JCDTF detectives to assist in long term, larger drug investigations. These programs have continued in 2016.

Additionally, a JCDTF detective obtained a high level security clearance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in order to assist in investigations involving large scale transnational criminal drug organizations who have set up sophisticated distribution networks in Jackson County.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES SEIZED/PURCHASED

2016	Marijuana	Methamphetamine	Crack/ Cocaine	PCP	Heroin	Synthetic	Pills
Pounds	12.8	88.1	1.4	-	0.1	-	N/A
Ounces	205.0	1,429.1	11.1	-	1.1	-	N/A
Grams	5,790.0	40,014.0	613.0	-	30.1	82.0	660.0

VALUE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES SEIZED/PURCHASED

2016	Marijuana	Methamphetamine	Crack/ Cocaine	PCP	Heroin	Synthetic	Pills
Value	\$ 75,270	\$ 5,001,750	\$ 82,755	\$ -	\$ 4,515	\$ 1,066	\$ 52,800

TOTAL VALUE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES SEIZED

\$5,218,156.00

FIREARMS SEIZED/PURCHASED



Long Guns \$200 / each	Hand Guns \$400 / each
27	51
\$5,400	\$20,400



STATISTICS

	Cases Opened	Cases Closed	Search Warrants	Knock-n-Talks	Presentations	Narcotics Purchased	Money Recovered	Meth Labs Processed	Marijuana Grows Processed
2010	149	67	71	78	6	178	\$140,602	7	8
2011	201	32	42	56	12	127	\$111,134	4	1
2012	124	206	73	66	10	180	\$411,048	1	3
2013	119	173	92	30	21	408	\$275,876	0	3
2014	74	208	48	48	1	158	\$424,762	0	2
2015	127	199	58	82	1	218	\$330,372	0	1
2016	132	301	61	21	4	170	136,261	1	0

Prosecution Comparison Years 2010 – 2016

Cases Presented for Prosecution

Federal						
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
5	186	250	128	106	122	215

State						
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
47	85	89	65	98	82	75

CASE COMPARISON

	Total Cases Presented	Federal Cases	State Cases	Arrests	Warrant Arrests	Detectives Funded	Value of Seized Narcotics
2010	52	5	47	227		14	\$1,054,321
2011	271	186	85	244		14	\$4,871,131
2012	339	250	89	427		13	\$4,116,215
2013	205	128	65	177		11	\$7,568,018
2014	204	106	98	209		11	\$8,894,042
2015	216	122	82	262	225	12	\$6,530,240
2016	290	215	75	292	222	13	\$5,218,156

2016 DRUG COMPLAINT REPORT

During 2016, the Jackson County Drug Task Force received a total of 56 Drug Complaints. The following table is a statistical break down of the complaint location by jurisdiction and the sources from which the complaints were received.

Jurisdiction	Number of Complaints Received	%	Source of Received Complaints	%
Blue Springs	0	0.0%		
Buckner	0	0.0%		
Grain Valley	8	0.12%		
Grandview	31	0.48%		
Greenwood	0	0.0%		
Independence	9	0.14%		
Jackson County	3	0.05%		
Kansas City, MO	5	0.08%		
Lake Lotawana	0	0.0%		
Lake Tapawingo	1	0.01%		
Lee's Summit	2	0.03%		
Lone Jack	0	0.0%		
Oak Grove	2	0.03%		
Raytown	2	0.03%		
Sibley	0	0.0%		
Sugar Creek	2	0.03%		
Tarsney Lake	0	0.0%		
COMBAT				
Confidential Informant			0	0.00%
Facebook			2	0.03%
Task Force Phone Tips			39	0.60%
Outside Agencies			8	0.12%
Tips Hotline			16	0.25%
Combat				

SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS

It should be noted that these are not all of the cases investigated, but some of the more noteworthy.

Investigation #1

Beginning in 2007 and carrying into the present a group of known associates were suspected to be involved in hundreds of burglaries, in and around the Kansas City metropolitan area. During the investigation into the burglaries Detectives with the Independence Police Career Criminal Unit learned that the group was also involved in the use and distribution of methamphetamine. Detectives from the Independence Police Department's Career Criminal Unit, Drug Enforcement Unit and the Jackson County Drug Task Force coordinated a joint investigation into the group for their involvement in the burglaries and the distribution of methamphetamine.

Detectives arranged and coordinated numerous controlled purchases of methamphetamine from a number of individuals within the group and other known associates. Detectives executed a total of nine (9) search warrants recovering guns, homemade explosives, soft body armor, drugs and cash. A residence identified in Kansas City, Kansas was also found to part of a separate ongoing investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Kansas City, Kansas Drug Enforcement Unit. That investigation targeted violent street gang members affiliated with F-13 and Folk Nation. The defendants in this investigation were involved in aggravated robberies, shootings, and in one incidence a defendant engaged a U.S. Marshal in a firefight and was subsequently killed.

As the investigation developed, Detectives identified and prosecuted numerous other individuals involved in the organization including one individual who was reportedly obtaining approximately twenty (20) pounds of methamphetamine a week from a Mexican based Drug Trafficking Organization operating in the Kansas City metropolitan area

In a joint, coordinated effort Detectives and Agents from each of the involved Agencies compiled and combined evidence for prosecution. Four residences were identified as locations where drugs and illegal weapons were either stored or sold. Probable cause was developed for the issuance of search warrants for three residences located in Kansas City, Missouri and one located in Independence, Missouri.

In June, after days of around the clock surveillance, Detectives observed one defendant take delivery of approximately eleven (11) pounds of methamphetamine from the suspected leader of the Mexican Drug Trafficking Organization.

Per the operations plan Detectives arrested the defendant who took delivery of the methamphetamine. The search warrants were executed simultaneously upon this defendant's arrest. As the tactical team executed the warrant on the residence where drug supplier was located the Tactical Officers immediately received gun fire from inside the residence. An 8 hour standoff ensued with dozens of rounds being fired at Police by

the suspect from inside the residence. This suspect was ultimately shot and died as a result of his injuries after exchanging gun fire with Kansas City, Missouri Tactical Officers.

As a result of this cooperative investigation the Grand Jury in the Western District of Missouri returned indictments charging twenty one (21) defendants with forty four (44) counts of various drug, firearms and financial crimes to include:

- Conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine
- Possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine
- Possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking offense
- Felon in possession of a firearm
- Use of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence
- Immigration violations

Evidence seizures in the investigation include:

- Twelve (12) pounds of methamphetamine
- Homemade explosives
- Soft body armor
- \$50,000 cash
- Twenty two (22) weapons including handguns, assault rifles with one handgun equipped with a silencer

Initially, the geographical scope of this investigation was limited to the Kansas City metropolitan area however leads developed from this case have led to other investigations across the United States and beyond.





Investigation #2

In October, 2014 The Jackson County Drug Task Force, in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, initiated an investigation into a group that was distributing large amounts of methamphetamine and illegal weapons in Jackson County and the Kansas City metropolitan area. The target of the investigation was a known associate of a violent street gang operating in Kansas City, Missouri.

During the course of the investigation Detectives conducted numerous controlled purchases of methamphetamine and made arrangements for the purchase of a fully automatic AR-15 assault rifle.

While attempting to complete the purchase of the assault rifle the JCDTF was confronted by two unknown males who were armed with a handgun and robbed the JCDTF of official JCDTF currency.

Both suspects were immediately taken into custody without further incident. After an investigation of the incident one of the defendants in the robbery was charged Robbery 1st Degree and Armed Criminal Action.

During the following months Detectives identified several defendants as a possible source of supply of methamphetamine. Detectives were able to conduct numerous controlled purchases of multiple pounds of methamphetamine and weapons to include a 9mm semi-automatic handgun and an AK-47 style assault rifle.

Detectives arranged a controlled purchase of two fully automatic assault rifles from one of the identified defendants. As Detectives arrived at the pre-arranged location they were again confronted by two unidentified individuals who then robbed the JCDTF of official JCDTF currency. One suspect was taken into custody immediately with the other running south from the scene. As the suspect fled he threw a semi-automatic handgun down in the middle of the block. The suspect was taken into custody within a few feet of where he threw the handgun. The handgun, a Glock semi-automatic, was recovered from the scene. The hand gun was determined to be a stolen Raytown, Missouri Police Officers issued duty weapon which had been taken in a burglary of the Officers home in Independence, Missouri.

Both suspects in this robbery were charged in State court with Robbery 1st Degree and Armed Criminal Action.

A few days after the second robbery JCDTF Detectives were contacted by a Homicide Detective from the Kansas City Missouri Police Homicide Unit. The Detective was conducting an investigating into the murder of a known upper level methamphetamine dealer and current target of an active JCDTF OCDTEF investigation. The victim was murdered during a drug transaction in the laundry room of his apartment building. A vehicle containing three individuals was caught on video surveillance cameras in the parking lot of a restaurant across the street minutes after the homicide. One of the occupants of that vehicle was recognized by Homicide Detectives to be the target of this JCDTF investigation.

Due to the similarities of the two robberies and the homicide, all three crimes were now linked by one person, the target of the JCDF investigation, who had set up each of the drug transactions that resulted in the robberies and homicide.

The JCDF met with Kansas City Police Homicide Detectives, Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol and Firearms, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Assistant United States Attorney in Western District of Missouri in an effort to coordinate the JCDF investigation with the homicide investigation.

Subsequently, a Federal Grand Jury was convened and the JCDF target was indicted on two counts of Distribution of Methamphetamine and one count of Felon in Possession of a Firearm from the JCDF investigation. Detectives and Agents from each of Law Enforcement Agencies coordinated efforts in an attempt to gain information that would further the Kansas City Police murder investigation.

As a direct result of the coordination of the homicide investigation with the narcotics distribution and illegal weapons investigation two defendants were indicted federally in the Kansas City homicide investigation

Investigation #3

In early 2016, the JCDF, in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the JCDF initiated an investigation involving a methamphetamine distribution network operating in Jackson County Missouri. This investigation was promptly designated as an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDEF), "Operation Squeaky Banjo", targeting drug traffickers who were members and associates of the Sinaloa, Mexico Drug Trafficking Organization. During the course of the investigation, investigators utilized numerous methods to conduct the investigation including sophisticated surveillance techniques and controlled purchases of methamphetamine.

Over the course of the investigation, Detectives coordinated numerous controlled purchases of methamphetamine from seven (7) separate defendants. These purchases resulted in the purchase of approximately eleven (11) pounds of methamphetamine and the identification of several individuals involved in the distribution of methamphetamine.

This organization utilized vehicles to conceal both drugs and money as they moved contraband across the United States and into the Kansas City metropolitan area. In one instance, Detectives coordinated the stop of a possible load vehicle in Utah believed to be destined to Jackson County and the Kansas City metropolitan area. Authorities in Utah recovered approximately 20 pounds of methamphetamine located in a concealed compartment within the vehicle.

Additionally, Detectives coordinated with the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department to interdict a FedEx package containing nearly 20 pounds of methamphetamine. The package was being shipped to a residence in Kansas City, Missouri from an unknown sender in Arizona. The residence was associated with the suspected head of the organization, and was the registered address of several vehicles associated with the

organization including vehicles used by defendants in other Federal investigations. Detectives coordinated numerous controlled deliveries and arrests throughout the investigation.

A separate Federal Bureau of Investigation Kansas City case, documented defendants who supplied twenty (20) pounds of methamphetamine a week to defendants associated with the JCDTF investigation.

A financial investigation of the head of this now confirmed Transnational Criminal Organization revealed that the target of the investigation and his wife were using the Kansas City housing market to conceal and launder proceeds from the sale of narcotics. They were found to have used cash to purchase money orders that were then used to purchase at least seven (7) residences in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Also, Investigators discovered multiple cash deposits into the bank accounts in excess of \$713,800 and multiple wire transfers of cash to Mexico. The investigation uncovered intricate details of the financial workings of a large scale drug trafficking transnational criminal organization.

This case has been linked to other Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation investigations in jurisdictions outside of the Western District of Missouri, across the United States.

During the course of this investigation, Detectives were able to determine this organization to be responsible for the distribution of at least 260 pounds of methamphetamine in an 18 month period.

In December 2016, the Grand Jury in the Western District of Missouri returned indictments charging eleven (11) defendants with thirty (30) counts of various drug, firearms and financial crimes to include:

- Conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine/cocaine/heroin
- Possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine/cocaine/heroin
- Conspiracy to commit money laundering
- Possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking offense
- Illegal alien in possession of a firearm
- Use of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence
- Immigration violations.

Squeaky Banjo By the numbers:

- 15 controlled undercover purchases of methamphetamine totaling 11 pounds.
- Interdiction of 53 pounds of methamphetamine via vehicle stops and Fed Ex delivery.
- 2 pounds methamphetamine recovered via multiple court authorized search warrants.





DRUG TRENDS

Methamphetamine continues to be a problem in the Metropolitan area. It is readily available, user prices are reasonable and purity levels are acceptable. Local production of methamphetamine has decreased significantly in Jackson County however, continues to be a concern from both an enforcement aspect and as a public safety issue.

Methamphetamine Laboratories Recovered						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Jackson County	7	1	0	0	0	1
Missouri	2096	1571	1105	800	471	207

Missouri is seeing a decrease in methamphetamine clandestine laboratories dropping from third in the Nation to eighth in the number of Clandestine Laboratories recovered. Working with the community and community businesses has resulted in the significant decrease in methamphetamine laboratories in Jackson County.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice 2016 National Drug Assessment report the majority of methamphetamine available in the United States is Mexico-produced. It is highly potent and increasingly available.

In Jackson County, methamphetamine is brought into the area in large quantities from California, Texas and the Southwest Border States with the original source being drug trafficking organizations from Mexico. These Mexican drug traffickers tend to work in independent cells and structured groups. The leaders of these organizations predominantly have no ties to the area or the United States and thus they are flight risks. Members of the organization use multiple identities in an effort to confuse authorities. Intelligence information has been received that some wholesalers come to the area to deal large amounts of methamphetamine for a short period of time, make what money they can and then leave the area.

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine

is available throughout the metropolitan area. Indications are that cocaine will continue to be a problem because it is relatively affordable and easily procured. Powder cocaine is prevalent in Eastern Jackson County and together with cocaine base (crack) are judged to be the number three (3) and four (4) drugs of choice behind marijuana and methamphetamine. Generally, cocaine powder is brought into the metropolitan area from Texas, the Southwest Border States and California by Mexican drug trafficking organizations. These organizations use a variety of transportation techniques depending on the amount they are bringing in. Once here, the drug is either sold in powder form or converted to crack. Cocaine abuse ranges from casual users of powder to those addicted to crack and other narcotics. Retail distributors are usually found to be individuals associated with groups who have ties to Mexican drug trafficking organizations. These drug trafficking organizations have direct ties to out of state and international sources. Enforcement efforts and cooperative investigations have been, and continue to be, successful against dealers, wholesalers and importers. Any investigation into individuals or smaller groups always focuses on moving up the distribution chain.



Heroin is becoming more prevalent and available within the metropolitan area (including eastern Jackson County), and is being seen on a more regular basis. Dealers are frequently individuals who possess and sell only small amounts. Many of the dealers and abusers know each other and operate as a small subculture. The greatest threat and abuse of heroin is in the

metropolitan areas of Kansas City and St. Louis with abundant supplies and increasing abuse. With the increase in supply and increasing trend of abuse, there has been an increase in heroin overdose and hospitalizations. Again, heroin is predominantly brought into Jackson County from the southwest Border States by Mexican based Drug Trafficking Organizations.

Marijuana is readily available in all areas of Jackson County. It is the most abused and preferred drug in the area, and has commonly been referred to as the “gateway drug”. Marijuana is commonly found to be used in combination with other drugs and / or narcotics.

The source for imported marijuana is usually the Southwest Border States. Mexican organizations bring it across the US border for distribution with other drugs such as methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine. Over the past few years, more imported marijuana is being seen throughout the metropolitan area from states where the sale of and use of marijuana has been legalized by the state.

Some marijuana is locally cultivated. In the suburban / residential areas cultivation has been seen in small indoor grow operations. In rural settings, outside the metropolitan area, marijuana is grown in large outdoor plots. Mexican based drug cartels have imported marijuana growers in rural areas bordering Jackson County and established large outdoor grow operations. Enforcement of grow operations focuses on destruction of the plants and prosecution of the offender, usually at the state level when there are no extenuating circumstances or other crimes.

Designer Synthetic drugs are chemically laced substances similar to marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine. Based on their chemical makeup, these drugs are commonly divided into two categories, Cannabinoids and Cathinone’s.

Cannabinoids, commonly known as K2 or spice, are chemically formulated versions of synthetic marijuana that consist of a laboratory manufactured tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). This synthetic drug can contain a vast range of chemical formulations and potencies that can be two to five hundred times stronger than THC. Synthetic cannabinoids were originally developed in the early 2000’s to facilitate pharmacological studies. In 2005 they began appearing in synthetic mixtures used to make drugs often referred to as synthetic cannabis. This was the start of a trend of newly created recreational designer drugs in European countries. In 2009, importation into the United States and Canada began. The appearance is very similar to marijuana and composed of a brown leafy plant material sprayed with the synthetic mixture. Once dried, it is packaged for sale and labeled “Not for human consumption”.

Cathinone’s, often known as “bath salts”, contain chemical compounds that mimic the effects of cocaine or methamphetamine. Bath salts are a powdered drug that contains at least one amphetamine type substance. Typically, that is methylenedioxypyrovalerone, known as MDPV. It can also be methylene or mephedrone. As with any designer drug, the composition of each batch can vary and the drug can be smoked, snorted or injected. Bath salts are commonly marketed as plant food and is labeled “not for human consumption” in order to circumvent laws governing the supply of pharmaceuticals.

These designer drugs are extremely dangerous in that individual buyers do not know what chemicals they are ingesting.

Designer drugs are commonly sold under the counter at gas stations, convenience stores and tobacco and smoke shops throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area and Jackson County.

The belief that any product manufactured with synthetic cannabinoids is legal is **FALSE**. To date, all products containing either of these substances are regulated under Schedule II of the Controlled Drug and Substances Act.

In 2013 / 2014, the JCDTF, DEA and other metropolitan area law enforcement agencies coordinated an investigation targeting the synthetic drug industry in Jackson County and the Kansas City metropolitan area. The investigation involved over 100 undercover purchases of synthetic drugs at over 30 locations, including but not limited to, Independence, Blue Springs, Raytown, Grandview, Kansas City Missouri, Kansas City Kansas and Gladstone. This coordinated effort resulted in a noticeable decline in the sales of synthetic drugs in Jackson County.



Psilocybin mushroom seemed to have taken a decline in popularity within the past year. The temporary rise in grow operations seems to have discontinued. Psilocybin mushrooms are not widely available on the open market at this time indicating that abuse is not widespread.

MDMA/Ecstasy and LSD is available in Eastern Jackson County. This is a concern because MDMA/Ecstasy and LSD users tend to be high school and college aged youth. Both of these drugs are known to be used at popular parties known as raves and in club settings. Manufacture of these drugs involves a complex chemical process and there is no known production in the area. LSD is imported from California in a variety of different methods. MDMA/Ecstasy is manufactured and imported from outside the US. LSD has been encountered in sporadic instances but it does not appear to hold the popularity or availability it once had in the area.

PCP (phencyclidine) is recognized as an extremely dangerous drug due to its psychological effect on users. PCP is often applied to marijuana and smoked. In previous years, availability ranged from somewhat limited in Eastern Jackson County to easily obtainable in the center of the metropolitan area. Over the past year PCP is becoming more easily available within Eastern Jackson County.

OxyContin, Vicodin and other prescribed pharmaceutical drugs are commonly abused in Jackson County. Diversion occurs through fraudulent prescriptions, “doctor shopping”, robberies and burglaries. Abusers and dealers consist of individuals and / or groups of individuals. Although not typically formed into organized groups, some of these individuals are beginning to form into small networks for the purpose of distribution and sales of the various pharmaceuticals. In several recent cases, the suppliers are individuals that have obtained legitimate 30 day prescriptions, which they in turn sell to the dealers at a drastic markup. The dealers would then sell the product at 3-4 times their initial costs.

JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE

2016

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, December 16, 2016

Ten KC-Area Residents Indicted for 100-Pound Meth Conspiracy

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Tammy Dickinson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that 10 Kansas City, Mo.-area defendants have been indicted by a federal grand jury for their roles in a conspiracy to distribute at least 100 pounds of methamphetamine.

Juan Rodriguez-Rivera, also known as "Juan Carillo," "Armando Garcia," and "Luis Rodrigues," 32, a citizen of Mexico, Rafael Elodaid Baylon-Palma, also known as "Eli," 27, Mauricio Daniel Dominguez, 34, and Rolando Segura, age unknown, all of Kansas City, Mo.; Jesus David Baylon-Palma, also known as "Raul," "Fathead," and "Primo," 29, and Esmeralda Contreras-Fernandez, 27, both of Raytown, Mo., Jose Carlos Baylon-Carrasco, age unknown, a citizen of Mexican residing in Grandview, Mo., Eduardo Luna-Avina, 26, a citizen of Mexico, and Jose Santana-Chavez, 36, both of Kansas City, Kan., and Rory Sanchez, 32, address unknown, were charged in a five-count superseding indictment returned under seal on Dec. 14, 2016, by a federal grand jury in Kansas City, Mo. That indictment has been unsealed and made public upon the arrests and initial court appearances of several defendants.

The federal indictment alleges that all 10 defendants participated in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine from Jan. 1, 2013, to Dec. 13, 2016. The indictment also alleges that all 10 defendants participated in a money-laundering conspiracy during that time.

The indictment contains a forfeiture allegation, which would require the defendants to forfeit to the government any property derived from the proceeds of the alleged drug-trafficking conspiracy, including a money judgment of \$700,000 (based on a sale price of \$7,000 per pound of methamphetamine and distribution of at least 100 pounds of methamphetamine), a 2007 Land Rover, a 2008 Ford F-250, a 2010 Ford TCN van and a 2016 Chevrolet Silverado.

In addition to the drug-trafficking and money-laundering conspiracies, the indictment charges Rodriguez-Rivera with illegally entering the United States after previously being deported following his conviction in Kansas for possessing cocaine.

Sanchez is also charged with possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime and with being a felon in possession of a firearm. Sanchez allegedly was in possession of a loaded AA Arms 9mm assault pistol.

Dickinson cautioned that the charges contained in this indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the FBI, Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Jackson County Drug Task Force.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, July 7, 2016

KC Man Sentenced to 30 Years for Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering Conspiracies

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Tammy Dickinson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Kansas City, Mo., man has been sentenced in federal court for his role in conspiracies to distribute methamphetamine in Jackson County, Mo., and to engage in money laundering.

Travis Ybarra, also known as "HoodNutt," 27, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Greg Kays on Wednesday, July 6, 2016, to 30 years in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 28, 2015, Ybarra was found guilty of participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine from Jan. 1, 2009, to Dec. 11, 2012. Ybarra was also found guilty of participating in a money-laundering conspiracy that involved proceeds of drug trafficking.

Ybarra was found responsible for the distribution of more than 15 kilograms of methamphetamine. During the conspiracy, he made concerted efforts to threaten and locate for retribution individuals he believed owed him money and had cheated one of his drug dealers. He was recorded on telephone intercepts making threats.

Ybarra fled from law enforcement and discarded a firearm and methamphetamine. At the time of his arrest Ybarra was in possession of a firearm, ammunition and a Taser (along with drugs and

drug trafficking items such as a money counter). His pre-trial release was revoked for fleeing from the police at such a high rate of speed that his car went airborne, and for being in possession of a semi-automatic assault-style rifle with four magazines and 119 rounds of ammunition and a 9mm handgun with 14 rounds.

In July 2011, the Jackson County Drug Task Force began an investigation into a drug-trafficking organization distributing methamphetamine in the Kansas City, Mo., area. Ybarra and co-defendant John Martinez, also known as "Whisper," of Kansas City, Mo., were partners who supplied methamphetamine to mid-level distributors, who then sold the methamphetamine to others.

Martinez was sentenced on Feb. 10, 2015, to 12 years and six months in federal prison without parole, after pleading guilty to the same charges.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Bruce Rhoades and Adam Caine. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Independence, Mo., Police Department, the Jackson County Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 20, 2016

Independence Father, Son Plead Guilty to Meth Conspiracy

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Tammy Dickinson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., father and son pleaded guilty in federal court today to their roles in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Jesse L. Davis, Jr., 27, and his father, Jesse L. Davis, Sr., 50, both of Independence, pleaded guilty in separate appearances before U.S. District Judge Brian C. Wimes to participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine from November 2013 to September 2014.

By pleading guilty today, Davis, Jr., admitted that he lived in the home of a co-conspirator, where drug transactions occurred, to act as a "strong hand" and provide protection. According to today's plea agreement, Davis, Jr., is individually responsible for the purchase and redistribution of at least 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Davis, Jr., must forfeit to the government a money judgment of \$52,500 (based upon a conservative street price of \$35 per gram of methamphetamine).

Davis, Sr., admitted that he purchased methamphetamine from a co-conspirator and then redistributed the methamphetamine to others. According to the plea agreement, Davis, Sr., is individually responsible for the purchase and redistribution of approximately 340 grams of methamphetamine. Under the terms of today's plea agreement, Davis, Sr., must forfeit to the government a money judgment of \$11,900 (based upon a conservative street price of \$35 per gram of methamphetamine).

Under federal statutes, Davis, Jr., is subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to a sentence of life in federal prison without parole. Under the terms of today's plea agreement, Davis, Sr., will be sentenced to 87 months in federal prison without parole. The maximum statutory sentence is prescribed by Congress and is provided here for informational purposes, as the sentencing of the defendant will be determined by the court based on the advisory sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick Edwards. It was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force and the Independence, Mo., Police Department.

USAO - Missouri, Western

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
WESTERN DISTRICT *of* MISSOURI

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Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

Western District of Missouri

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 9, 2016

KC Man Charged with Meth Trafficking

Law Enforcement Operation Resulted in Fatal Shooting

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Tammy Dickinson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was charged in federal court today with possessing nearly five kilograms of methamphetamine to distribute. During the law enforcement operation, another individual was fatally shot.

Michael J. Wilkins, 25, of Kansas City, was charged in a criminal complaint filed in the U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Mo., with possessing methamphetamine with the intent to distribute.

According to an affidavit filed in support of today's criminal complaint, DEA task force officers were conducting a multi-jurisdictional operation on Wednesday, June 8, 2016. Wilkins, a suspected methamphetamine distributor, was seen leaving his residence in a red 1995 Ford Mustang. Investigators followed Wilkins to a residence in the 300 block of S. Bellefontaine Ave., Kansas City, Mo. Wilkins, the only occupant of the vehicle, was seen carrying a black bag as he walked into the residence.

After a short time, the affidavit says, Wilkins left the residence, carrying the black bag as well as a large white box. Wilkins placed both items in the passenger seat of the Ford Mustang and walked around the rear of the vehicle to the driver's side door. When law enforcement officers approached him, the affidavit says, Wilkins fled on foot. He was subsequently taken into custody and placed under arrest for fleeing/resisting law enforcement.

During the foot chase of Wilkins, law enforcement officers executed a search warrant at the Bellefontaine residence. That operation led to an hours-long standoff when persons inside the house fired shots at law enforcement officers. When an individual who had fired several shots at officers ran from the house with his rifle aimed at the officers, he was fatally shot.

Officers searched the route where Wilkins had fled, the affidavit says, and found a Citadel M1911-A1 CS handgun. Officers also searched Wilkins's Ford Mustang and found a white Corona beer box, which contained five gallon-sized plastic bags of methamphetamine. A black backpack contained \$12,363 and a plastic baggie with methamphetamine. A tool bag also contained methamphetamine. In total, officers found 4.764 kilograms of methamphetamine in the vehicle.

Dickinson cautioned that the charge contained in this complaint is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph M. Marquez and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Moeder. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department, the Jackson County Drug Task Force and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE COMMITMENT

Jackson County is a primary market area for production, distribution and abuse of dangerous drugs. Although progress has been made in many areas, continued vigilance, enforcement, treatment and education is required. The Jackson County Drug Task Force will continue its successful tradition through community partnerships and a united cooperative effort against illegal narcotics.

Although limited by financial and personnel constraints, the Jackson County Drug Task Force will continue to provide the citizens of these communities the professional service that they have come to deserve and expect. The members of this Task Force have made a commitment to this office, the law enforcement profession and the citizens of this community that no information concerning the illegal sales of narcotics will go without proper investigation. With that in mind, we will strive to continue to improve on the quality of service to this community.

The Jackson County Drug Task Force actively solicits tips and information regarding all illegal narcotics activity. Should the information be related to a jurisdiction outside of Jackson County, personnel from this office will assure that the information is passed on to the proper investigative agency. Individuals having information to pass on may contact this office through phone in complaints at 816-655-DRUG, via the Jackson County, Missouri Web Site, jacksongov.org, Facebook, Jackson County Mo Drug Task Force or through the TIPS hotline, 816- 474-TIPS.