



Department of Justice

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TWO SENTENCED FOR ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE COCAINE THROUGH JAX AIRPORT

Jacksonville, FL - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announced today that Antione Lemar Knox (age 22, of Jacksonville) and Lashawndra Denise Brown (age 31, of Jacksonville) have been sentenced by U.S. District Judge Harvey E. Schlesinger for conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine. Knox was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison, and Brown was sentenced to 5 years in federal prison.

Knox had pleaded guilty on June 20, 2008. Brown had pleaded guilty on September 22, 2008.

According to court documents, on January 8, 2008, Knox introduced Brown to a confidential source of information with the understanding that Brown would smuggle 5 kilograms of cocaine through the Jacksonville International Airport (JIA) for a fee to be paid to both Knox and Brown. At the time, Knox was employed at JIA at a shoe shine stand and Brown worked for United Airlines as a customer service representative. Knox and Brown told a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) undercover agent and confidential source that they planned to use their positions and airport employee badges to smuggle the cocaine through the airport.

On January 9, 2008, the DEA undercover agent and confidential source gave Brown

5 kilograms of look-a-like cocaine in a suitcase. Brown then used her employee badge to bypass the TSA check point with the look-a-like cocaine and proceeded to the United Airlines gate area. Upon arriving at the gate area, Brown gave the suitcase to the undercover agent.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in Jacksonville, the Jacksonville International Airport Police Department, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and DEA. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Angela D. Sherrer.
