

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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MURPHYSBORO MAN INDICTED ON CRACK COCAINE OFFENSE

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on August 18, 2006, **TOMMY M. HOUSE**, age 22, of Murphysboro, Illinois, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a one-count indictment charging him with possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine. Then indictment was unsealed on September 15, 2006. The violation is alleged to have taken place on February 12, 2006, in Jackson County.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The offense carries a penalty of up to 20 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1,000,000, and a term of 3 years' supervised release. **HOUSE** is being held without bond pending a November 20, 2006, jury trial.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to those agencies' participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. The goal of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is to remove illegal guns and drugs from our communities. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time.

The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.