

PRESS RELEASE

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JANESVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR DEALING CRACK COCAINE

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jerome G. Hughes, 32, Janesville, was sentenced on Friday, November 2, in U.S. District Court by Judge John C. Shabaz to life in prison for distributing crack cocaine.

In January and February 2006, Hughes sold approximately 48 grams of crack cocaine to a police informant. At the sentencing hearing, Judge Shabaz determined that Hughes was responsible for distributing between 1.5 kilograms and 4.5 kilograms of crack cocaine from 2002 until 2007, that he was the leader of a criminal enterprise with at least five members, and that he obstructed justice during his case when he made a phone call threatening to kill the witnesses against him.

Hughes is the 50th person convicted of federal drug and firearms crimes as the result of a long-term investigation conducted by the Rock County Safe Streets Task Force. The task force is comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the

Rock County Sheriff's Department; the Beloit Police Department; the Janesville Police Department; and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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