



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOR CRACK COCAINE CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was sentenced in federal court today for his role as the supplier in a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine from his home, less than a block from Center Elementary School.

Clarence J. Walton, 34, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to 20 years in federal prison without parole.

On March 19, 2003, a federal jury convicted **Walton** of one count of conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine in Jackson County, Mo., from Jan. 14 to Feb. 14, 2002, and one count of possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine in Jackson County on Feb. 14, 2002. **Walton** was initially charged with those crimes in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 27, 2002. Jurors found **Walton** guilty of both counts charged in the indictment.

“Today’s sentencing sends a clear message that our community will not tolerate drug dealers operating in our neighborhoods, especially in the same neighborhoods where our children attend school,” Graves said.

Evidence presented during the trial related a series of six undercover drug buys in less than a month in which **Walton** was the supplier, Graves said. In each case, an agent with the Jackson County Drug Task Force was taken to **Walton’s** residence at 1810 E. 85th Street, Kansas City, Mo., to deliver payment for crack cocaine and receive the drug. Graves explained that the undercover agent first approached co-defendants **Leonard E. Sims**, 33, and **Roger L. Sims**, 59, a father and son who were living together in a room at the Sports Stadium Motel, 9803 E. Highway 40, Independence, Mo. The undercover agent then was transported by one of them to **Walton’s** residence to complete the transaction. A total of more than 40 grams of crack cocaine

was purchased during these six transactions between Jan. 14 and Feb. 12, 2003.

Following that series of undercover drug buys, Graves said, officers obtained a search warrant for **Walton's** residence, a rented home near the intersection of 85th Street and The Paseo. In the execution of that search warrant on Feb. 14, 2003, they discovered approximately 56 grams of crack cocaine, approximately 257 grams of marijuana, approximately 2 grams of PCP, various drug paraphernalia, and a .44 caliber Ruger pistol with 14 live rounds of ammunition.

Leonard Simms was sentenced on Aug. 28, 2003, to 10 years in federal prison without parole. On Feb. 3, 2003, he pleaded guilty to one count of distributing crack cocaine and one count of distributing five grams or more of crack cocaine.

Roger Simms was sentenced on Aug. 20, 2003, to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. On Feb. 3, 2002, he pleaded guilty to four counts of distributing crack cocaine.

The case was prosecuted by U.S. Attorney Todd P. Graves and Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregg R. Coonrod. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow