

Jacksonville Area Drug Dealer Sentenced to 22 Years In Federal Prison

By Administrator
Wednesday, 09 October 2019 11:57 -

Senior United States District Judge Malcolm J. Howard, sentenced **Jordan Ray**, 39, of Patterson, New Jersey, to 270 months' imprisonment, followed by 6 years of supervised release.

RA

Y
was one of nine codefendants named in a fifteen-count Indictment on May 7, 2015. The Indictment charged

RAY
with conspiring to distribute cocaine, marijuana, 28 or more grams of crack cocaine, and 100 or more grams of heroin; two counts of possession with intent to distribute the same drugs; and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Ray
pled guilty to all charges on April 9, 2019.

Ray was the last of the nine men to be sentenced in this case. His eight co-conspirators previously received sentences ranging from 12 to 188 months

The investigation began in 2014, when officers of the Jacksonville PD, Onslow County Sheriff's Office, and Naval Criminal Investigative Service at Camp Lejeune began receiving reports that a group of men led by co-defendant Anthony Taylor were distributing large amounts of heroin in the Onslow, NC area. From January through October of 2014, agents were able to conduct 14 controlled buys of heroin and other controlled substances from Taylor and other co-defendants using confidential informants and undercover officers.

During one of these controlled buys on October 7, 2015, a confidential informant purchased 20 bags of heroin from **RAY** for \$260. **RAY** told the informant that he was Taylor's source of supply from New Jersey. Law enforcement subsequently learned that

Ray
had moved to North Carolina from Patterson, NJ, in approximately August 2014 to avoid arrest on unrelated New Jersey murder charges. Investigators determined that

Ray
was staying with Taylor and another co-defendant James Orr at a residence in Jacksonville.

On October 16, 2014, officers conducted a traffic stop of a car leaving that residence, in which **RAY** was a passenger. On **RAY**'s person, they found small quantities of crack and powder cocaine and well as marijuana. The next day, officers executed a search warrant at the residence. In **RAY**'s bedroom, they found 4.6 grams of

Jacksonville Area Drug Dealer Sentenced to 22 Years In Federal Prison

By Administrator

Wednesday, 09 October 2019 11:57 -

heroin, 58.9 grams of crack cocaine, 47 grams of cocaine, a quantity of marijuana, and a loaded 7.65mm semi-automatic firearm. They found an additional 80 grams of heroin in Orr's and Taylor's bedrooms.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. Since 2017, the United States Department of Justice has reinvigorated the PSN program and has targeted violent criminals, directing all U.S. Attorney's Offices to work in partnership with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and the local community to develop effective, locally-based strategies to reduce violent crime.

That effort has been implemented through the *Take Back North Carolina Initiative* of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina. This initiative emphasizes the regional assignment of federal prosecutors to work with law enforcement and District Attorney's Offices in those communities on a sustained basis to reduce the violent crime rate, drug trafficking, and crimes against law enforcement.

The Jacksonville Police Department, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), the Onslow County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) investigated these cases. Assistant United States Attorney Jake D. Pugh represented the government.