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MEDIA RELEASE

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Release Date: Immediate

On Friday September 18th an Anderson County Jury found Charles Randolph Johnson guilty on all counts of Possessing Heroin for Sale in a School Zone, Possessing Marijuana for Sale in a School Zone and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Charles Johnson came to Anderson County from Monroe, Michigan near Detroit with Heroin and Marijuana. He is separately charged with selling Heroin on three occasions on Coconut Lane adjacent to Claxton Elementary School. Agents with the DEA, Anderson County Sheriff's Office, Oak Ridge Police Department and the 7th Judicial Crime Task Force conducted the investigation. The charges for allegedly actually selling the heroin are separately set for trial on November 10th.

Following the alleged buys of heroin, agents obtained a search warrant for the trailer on Coconut Lane. The case tried last week was related to what was found when that search warrant was executed. The trial jury heard evidence that Johnson possessed heroin and marijuana packaged for resale in the trailer as well as drug paraphernalia.

The case was tried by Assistant District Attorney General Ryan Spitzer. Judge Donald Elledge was presiding. Following a day and one-half trial, the jury deliberated approximately one and one-half hours before announcing their verdict. Johnson will be sentenced on November 30th. Because he has a prior felony record and because the jury found that the crime occurred within a school zone, Johnson is subject to a sentence of between 25 and 40 years. The particulars of that sentence will be determined by Judge Elledge at the time of the sentencing hearing.

Johnson also has pending charges for Coercion of a Witness in connection with these earlier instances.

District Attorney General Dave Clark commented, "we have been concerned for some time about the appearance of drugs in the Metropolitan Knoxville area from Detroit; particularly the appearance of heroin from Detroit. Heroin is horribly addicting, has produced a number of recent overdoses and destroys lives and families. I am grateful for the hard work of law enforcement, my staff and the Court in bringing this matter to justice. Hopefully, this will send a message to those bringing drugs to our community from Detroit."

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