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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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Release Date: Immediate

Charles Randolph Johnson was sentenced on Monday to thirty (30) years in prison after being found guilty of Possession with the Intent to sell Heroin within one thousand (1,000) feet of a School, Possession with Intent to sell Marijuana, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Johnson, a Michigan native, was arrested January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 during execution of a search warrant following a joint investigation by the DEA, Anderson County Sheriff's Department, Oak Ridge Police Department, and the Seventh Judicial District Crime Task Force. Johnson was found to be in possession of a large amount of heroin and marijuana inside a mobile home near Claxton Elementary School in the Powell Community of Anderson County, Tennessee. Johnson was convicted by a jury on September 18, 2015 and was sentenced by Criminal Court Judge Donald R. Elledge on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Johnson has several prior felony convictions from Michigan that contributed to an increased sentence. In addition, unlike many drug convictions where a defendant is eligible for parole after serving only 30 to 35% of his or her sentence, Mr. Johnson must serve 100% of his sentence because it was committed within 1,000 feet of a school. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ryan Spitzer.

Having made great strides in combating both Methamphetamine and prescription pill abuse over the last several years, we are now seeing a significant increase in trafficking of dangerous and highly addictive heroin from Michigan into the Knoxville area. This conviction and hefty sentence should send a clear message that Tennesseans simply will not tolerate bringing in heroin and poisoning our communities for profit.

Mr. Johnson has additional charges pending for three (3) related sales of heroin that led to the issuance of the search warrant as well as Coercion of a Witness and Fabrication of Evidence charges stemming from an incident in the Anderson County Detention Facility.

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