

**PRESS RELEASE**



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**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Melissa Merz**

**312-814-3118**

**877-844-5461 (TTY)**

**[mmerz@atg.state.il.us](mailto:mmerz@atg.state.il.us)**

**February 9, 2006**

**MADIGAN: VERMILION COUNTY MAN GUILTY OF DRUG CHARGES**

***SEARCH OF RESIDENCE ALSO TURNED UP FIREARMS AND CASH***

Chicago - Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced the conviction of a Vermilion County man on various drug charges stemming from a 2004 undercover operation by several law enforcement agencies.

Charles Allison, 54, formerly of Rankin, was found guilty Wednesday by a McLean County judge of (1) unlawful possession of a controlled substance with the intent to deliver, a Class X felony punishable by 15 to 120 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections; (2) three counts of unlawful delivery of a controlled substance, a Class X felony punishable by six to 60 years on each count; (3) unlawful possession of a controlled substance, a Class 1 felony which carries a potential sentence of four to 30 years; and unlawful delivery of cannabis, a Class 2 felony punishable by three to 14 years in the penitentiary.

In December 2004, Allison was arrested in LeRoy after he drove to the McLean County community to deliver nearly a kilogram of cocaine to an Illinois State Police (ISP) undercover agent. Madigan's office prepared and obtained search warrants in advance of the arrest and the warrants were executed the evening of his arrest.

"Members of the Illinois State Police Task Force 6 joined forces with our office to bring to justice this man who specialized in selling large amounts of illegal drugs," Madigan said.

The task force consists of officers from the Clinton, Bloomington, Pontiac and Dwight Police Departments, members of the DeWitt and McLean County Sheriff's Departments and the Illinois State University Police. In addition, the Vermilion Metropolitan Enforcement Group and the East-Central Illinois Task Force assisted in the investigation.

Allison sold cocaine and cannabis to the undercover agent on several occasions in late 2004. The purchases occurred in Vermilion and Champaign counties. The search of Allison's home netted authorities more than 300 grams of cocaine and more than a pound of cannabis. Authorities also discovered five handguns, a rifle, and \$36,700 during the search.

Allison is scheduled to appear before Judge James Souk for sentencing in April.

Assistant Attorney General Matthew Hoppock of Madigan's Statewide Grand Jury Bureau and McLean County Assistant State's Attorney Jeff Horve prosecuted the case. Madigan said that DeWitt County State's Attorney Jerry Johnson also played a key role in the investigation and prosecution of Allison. In addition, the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office and the Vermilion County State's Attorney assisted in this investigation.

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