

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2010

## ***SPARTANBURG MEN RECEIVE LENGTHY PRISON SENTENCES FOR DRUG CRIMES***

Two Spartanburg men received 25-year prison sentences today after a jury decided they possessed more than 760 grams of cocaine.

Derrick L. Cheeks, 30, was found guilty of trafficking crack cocaine and possession of cocaine with intent to distribute within a half-mile of a school. Ricky D. Cheeks, 50, was found guilty of two counts of trafficking crack cocaine and possession of cocaine with intent to distribute within a half-mile of a school.

Derrick Cheeks and his uncle, Ricky, will serve 80 percent of their prison sentences before they are eligible for release.

The State Law Enforcement Division and the Sheriff's Office arrested Ricky and Derrick Cheeks on June 4, 2009 after a series of recorded drug purchases by law enforcement informants.

Derrick Cheeks was arrested during the execution of a search warrant at a Gordon Drive home. Investigators found 650 grams of cocaine in various forms, digital scales and \$7,200 cash during their search of the home.

Investigators apprehended Ricky Cheeks during a traffic stop in the neighborhood where he was caught with 111 grams of cocaine in his possession.

The Cheeks were part of a drug-selling group that stretched to Anderson County and beyond, according to investigators. Chris D. Johnson, 28, of Pacolet, received a 15-year prison sentence on Monday after he admitted to transporting drugs for the Cheeks family. Johnson pleaded guilty to trafficking cocaine and two counts of trafficking crack cocaine.

"SLED and the Sheriff's Office made a big dent in the local drug trade with this case," Assistant Solicitor Eddie Hunter said. "I believe our community is a better place with the Cheeks drug cartel behind bars for a long time."

For more information, contact Murray Glenn at 809-4892.

###