



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Drug Dealer Enters Guilty Plea Moments Before Trial

SPRINGFIELD, MO – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Germal D. Kelly, 34, of Springfield, MO entered guilty plea to four counts of distributing a controlled substance to an undercover police officer in November and December of 2007, as a prior and persistent drug offender and one count of robbery in the second degree by forcibly stealing a Straight Talk cell phone in the possession of Wal-Mart on November 14, 2010, as a prior and persistent felony offender.

Kelly entered a guilty plea before the Honorable Thomas Mountjoy while a Greene County jury assembled downstairs for a trial on the defendant's charges of distribution of a controlled substance. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charges without a plea agreement.

As a prior and persistent drug offender, Kelly is subject to a sentence of 10-30 years, or life in the Missouri Department of Corrections, which term shall be served without probation or parole. On the charge of robbery in the second degree, as a prior and persistent felony offender, the defendant is subject to a range in punishment of 5-30 years, or life in the Missouri Department of Corrections.

Judge Mountjoy set a sentencing hearing for March 9, 2012, at 2:00 P.M. following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Kristen Tuohy and Clayton Ballard. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Nelson Kibby was the lead investigator assigned to the case.