

## United States Attorney's Office District of Oregon

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## Portland Man Sentenced to 25 Years in Federal Prison for Drug and Gun Crimes

PORTLAND, Ore.—A Portland man whose 20-year federal prison term was cut short by a commutation was sentenced to an additional 25 years in prison today for dealing counterfeit oxycodone pills containing fentanyl analogue, money laundering, and unlawfully possessing firearms, all while on supervised release from his last federal conviction.

Dontae Lamont Hunt, 42, was sentenced to 300 months in federal prison and five years' supervised release. Hunt was also ordered to pay \$60,000 to satisfy a forfeiture money judgment.

In September 2005, Hunt was sentenced to 240 months in federal prison and eight years' supervised release after pleading guilty to possessing with intent to distribute crack cocaine and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. In October 2016, Hunt was released from prison early, to a halfway house, after receiving a <u>sentence commutation</u>.

According to court documents and trial testimony, only months after receiving his commutation, Hunt began distributing counterfeit oxycodone pills laced with carfentanil, a potent controlled substance sometimes used as an elephant tranquilizer. In December 2017, Hunt was shot multiple times outside an apartment building in Eugene, Oregon. A surveillance video of the shooting showed Hunt walking in a nearby parking lot while talking on a cellphone and carrying a satchel. Immediately after the shooting, Hunt's girlfriend came to his aid, retrieved the satchel, and placed it in a vehicle used to drop Hunt off at a Eugene hospital.

After departing the hospital, the vehicle was stopped by Eugene police officers for a traffic violation and searched. Officers recovered a bloodstained satchel containing two loaded firearms, both of which were later determined to have Hunt's DNA on them. Back at the shooting scene, officers found a large amount of blood and an iPhone near where Hunt was shot. On the phone, investigators found evidence of Hunt's drug trafficking, including text messages and photos of what appeared to be counterfeit Oxycodone pills. Further investigation revealed that Hunt distributed the counterfeit pills in and around Portland and that his drug trafficking was connected to a fatal drug overdose in June 2018.

In September 2018, investigators searched three properties linked to Hunt, including his residence in Northeast Portland. At his residence, Hunt refused commands to surrender and remained alone upstairs for approximately 15 minutes. After he was taken into custody, Portland Police Bureau officers found blue pills adjacent to an upstairs toilet, consistent with and indicative of Hunt disposing of evidence. Agents also located several dozen additional blue pills

concealed in a jar of baby ointment, three firearms, and a gun box labeled with the make, model, and serial number of one of the firearms found in the bloodstained satchel in Eugene. Lab reports later confirmed the pills seized contained fentanyl analogue. Cellphones seized from Hunt's residence contained additional evidence of his drug trafficking activities. Agents also recovered more than \$40,00 in cash and seized multiple vehicles.

In October 2022, a federal jury found Hunt guilty on multiple gun, drug, and money laundering charges.

This case was investigated jointly by the Portland Police Bureau, IRS-Criminal Investigation, and FBI with assistance from U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Eugene Police Department. It was prosecuted by Peter Sax, Gary Sussman, and Suzanne Miles, Assistant U.S. Attorneys for the District of Oregon. Forfeiture litigation was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Julia Jarrett.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), the centerpiece of the Department of Justice's violent crime reduction efforts. PSN is an evidence-based program proven to be effective at reducing violent crime. Through PSN, a broad spectrum of stakeholders work together to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in the community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. As part of this strategy, PSN focuses enforcement efforts on the most violent offenders and partners with locally based prevention and reentry programs for lasting reductions in crime.

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