

State of South Carolina  
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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Pickens County Courthouse  
214 E. Main St., B-220  
Pickens, SC 29671

Solicitor  
W. Walter Wilkins

**PRESS RELEASE**

**April 14, 2011**

**Easley Man Sentenced on Trafficking in Crack Cocaine**

Tyrone Bernard Patrick, age 32, pleaded guilty on April 13, 2011 to charges of trafficking crack cocaine, possession with intent to distribute crack within one half mile of a school, and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent offense. The defendant entered his plea of guilty to the charges during the second day of his trial before a Pickens County jury, and was sentenced by the Honorable G. Edward Welmaker to serve 20 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Evidence presented at trial established that on July 30, 2009, the Easley Police Department executed a search warrant on Mr. Patrick's Easley residence and discovered over 28 grams of crack cocaine, two pistols, and various items associated with both the use and distribution of narcotic were found scattered throughout Mr. Patrick's house.

Assistant Solicitor Sam Tooker, who prosecuted the case for the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Office, reports that the defendant will have to serve at least 85% of his 20 year sentence.