

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

January 8, 2019

Greenville Man Sentenced on Trafficking In Cocaine, Resisting Arrest, Possession of Cocaine Base with the Intent to Distribute, and Distribution of Cocaine Base

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that John Robert Deniro Franklin, age 37, was sentenced on January 7, 2019 on the charges of Trafficking In Cocaine, 28 grams or more, but less than 100 grams; Resisting Arrest; Possession of Cocaine Base with the Intent to Distribute; and Distribution of Cocaine Base. He was sentenced to fifteen (15) years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable Letitia H. Verdin.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Walker Miller established that, as part of an extensive narcotics investigation conducted by the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division and the Greenville County Sheriff's Office on April 20, 2016, the defendant sold 55.98 grams of cocaine to an undercover law enforcement officer. On October 13, 2017 the defendant sold crack cocaine to an undercover operative. On October 19, 2017 law enforcement officers attempted to serve a lawful arrest warrant on the defendant. The defendant attempted to flee from officers as they placed him under arrest, and actively resisted arrest. Once placed under arrest, officers discovered that the defendant was in possession of 8.44 grams of crack cocaine.