



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PACKED OFF TO PRISON

(Tyler, Texas) A leading member of the Tyler area street gang, East Side Locos, has been sentenced to 1,582 months in federal prison. U.S. District Judge Leonard Davis sentenced **LORENZO HOWARD**, 23, this afternoon to 131 years in prison and ordered him to pay restitution of \$29,073.95.

According to information prosecutors presented at trial, Howard was a long-time member of the East Side Locos. As a gang member he burglarized homes and sold drugs and guns to fund gang activities. Additionally, Howard participated in gang initiations and intimidation of his rivals by assaulting them or shooting at their homes. In fact, one witness testified that a shooting of a Beverly Avenue, Tyler home in 2000 was the work of Howard. A jury convicted Howard of a RICO Act conspiracy, various drug and firearms charges, and one count of witness intimidation after a six day trial last June.

U.S. Attorney Matthew D. Orwig says this sentence should send a message, "The message is clear, if you join a gang as a young person, you could very well spend the rest of your life, grow old and die in prison. We will use every tool in our prosecutorial arsenal to prosecute those who terrorize residents and threaten the safety of our communities."

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Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Baldwin said the testimony of other gang members made a difference in convicting the defendant, "During the course of the trial, other gang members testified against the defendant. This alone sends the message that the loyalty within these gangs provides no safe harbor."

Howard is one of 14 individuals indicted by a federal grand jury a year ago. Six defendants have already been sentenced: Juan Saucedo was sentenced to 96 months in federal prison, Ramiro Saldivar, was sentenced to 144 months, Carlos Juarez was sentenced to 168 months, Daniel Garcia, Sr. was sentenced to 65 months, Felix Cortes was sentenced to 120 months and Rodgerick Howard was sentenced to 78 months. Four of their co-defendants are awaiting sentencing. Two others are fugitives and believed to be in Mexico. One defendant had his federal charges dropped in exchange for a guilty plea on state charges.

The FBI, Tyler Police Department and the Smith County District Attorney's Office investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Baldwin prosecuted the case.

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