



## *NEWS RELEASE*

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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### **FORMER DEA AGENT PLEADS GUILTY TO MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS TO FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS**

John L. Brownlee, United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, announced today that William Carter Harden, a former Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent, age 46, of Richmond, Virginia, plead guilty to lying to investigators when he told them he had never had sexual relations with a female informant. Mr. Brownlee was assigned to prosecute this matter after the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia recused itself from the case.

The plea was entered pursuant to a written plea agreement in United States District Court in Richmond.

“Mr. Harden’s criminal conduct was disgraceful and unbecoming of a federal agent. Mr. Harden’s criminal actions stand in stark contrast to the integrity and courage displayed by so many dedicated members of the Drug Enforcement Administration everyday in America and in Virginia,” said United States Attorney John Brownlee.

According to the statement of facts, Harden was a Special Agent with the Drug

Enforcement Administration whose official duties included utilizing confidential informants in his criminal investigations.

On the afternoon of July 22, 2005, Harden and a female informant occupied a room at the Knight's Inn, 9002 Brook Mill Road, Glen Allen, Virginia. During the course of their occupancy, Harden made several telephone calls to federal prosecutors in an attempt to delay the female informant's reporting date to jail. Special Agent Harden, while in the motel room, demanded that the informant perform oral sex on him. The female informant has testified that she engaged in the sexual activity because she was afraid of Harden. Harden maintains the sex was consensual.

On October 17, 2005, after the female informant was incarcerated, she recorded a telephone call to Harden complaining about being in jail and threatening to expose the sexual activity in the motel room if Harden did not come to see her. Harden told the informant he was still trying to get her out of jail.

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Harden made verbal and written statements to his supervisors at the Drug Enforcement Administration that he had never been alone with the female informant and that he had never engaged in sexual activities with her. Those statements were false.

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>, and November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Harden, in an effort to impede the federal investigation, interviewed employees at the above referenced Knight's Inn concerning the existence of motel receipts, the length of time surveillance camera tapes were maintained, and whether anyone remembered him staying at the motel. On his October 26<sup>th</sup> visit, Harden endeavored to persuade the desk clerk to withhold information from federal investigators

concerning Harden's staying at the motel.

In January 2006, Harden made an admission to an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia that he did receive oral sex from the female informant at the Knight's Inn.

The defendant faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration's Office of Professional Responsibility and the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. Thomas J. Bondurant, Jr, Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Criminal Chief for the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia prosecuted the case.

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