



TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

JEFFREY M. MERRELL, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

P.O. Box 849

FORSYTH, MO 65653

www.taneycountyprosecutor.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: JEFF MERRELL
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
(417) 546-7260**

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DECKER GETS TEN (10) YEARS ON DRUG CHARGE

On Thursday, May 12, 2011, in the Circuit Court of Taney County, Justin A. Decker (d.o.b. 10/16/1985), of Branson, Missouri, entered a plea of guilty to the class B felony of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute before Judge Mark Orr. Decker was sentenced to ten (10) years in prison as a result of a plea agreement with the Taney County Prosecutor's Office.

The felony drug charge resulted from a traffic stop made by Branson Police Department Officer Thad Torix, on March 11, 2011, at just before 5:00 p.m., on Gretna Road near Rosalee Street, in Branson. Due to suspicious activity on the part of the front passenger, Justin Decker, the traffic stop turned into a drug investigation. While Officer Torix detained Decker and the other adult occupants, a child in the vehicle handed another Branson officer a plastic bag containing 19 hydrocodone pills, which the child had removed from a bag of recently purchased fast food used to conceal the pills. Decker admitted to attempting to sell the pills, using his cellular phone to contact potential interested buyers.

"This officer's quality police work, and recognition of potentially illegal activity, has resulted in removing a drug dealer from our community," said Taney County Prosecuting Attorney Jeff Merrell. "He took a routine traffic stop and conducted a thorough investigation into the suspicious activity. It was good police work."

The class B felony to which Decker entered his guilty plea carries a range of punishment of five (5) to fifteen (15) years in the Missouri Department of Corrections.

MAIN OFFICE: (417) 546-7260 | FAX: (417) 546-2376

BAD CHECKS: (417) 546-7261 | VICTIM/WITNESS: (417) 546-7263 | CHILD SUPPORT: (417) 546-7262