



THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

United States Attorney
Eastern District of Washington

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Multiple Time Convicted Felon Sentenced to 20 Years in Prison for Running Commercial Pill Press Operation in Hillyard

Spokane, Washington –United States Attorney Pete Serrano announced that United States District Judge Thomas O. Rice has sentenced Timothy Gary Maddox, 44, of Spokane, Washington to a 20 year term of incarceration, to be followed by 5 years of court supervision upon his release stemming from his role in running a commercial pill press operation out of a residence in the Hillyard neighborhood of Spokane.

According to court documents and information discussed during the sentencing hearing, Maddox and his co-defendant Nicholas Adams obtained a commercial pill press via mail from China and set up a ‘pill mill’ the basement of Adams’ residence, mixing powder fentanyl and cutting agents to make their own fentanyl pills for bulk distribution into the community.

Search warrants were executed at multiple locations in November 2023 and yielded a massive amount of fentanyl powder, cutting agents, pill press parts, and multiple firearms along with an operational commercial pill press (below). Given the extremely hazardous conditions and contamination of nearly every flat surface created by operating a pill lab, the Department of Ecology assisted in the execution of the search warrant at Adams’ residence.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration’s calculations, the amount of fentanyl powder Maddox and Adams had on hand to produce pills was easily enough to make over 2,000,000 fentanyl pills containing a *lethal* dose. Put another way, the amount of fentanyl powder they had on hand to make these illicit pills could kill the entire population of Spokane County almost four times over.

In addition to their fentanyl pill production, Maddox and Adams possessed large quantities of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, MDMA, and marijuana. They were each armed with multiple loaded firearms in their respective residences, which included loaded (and chambered) handguns, loaded modified shotguns, and AK-type rifles. In Maddox’s residence, he also had a loaded firearm (with a round chambered) that had a “Glock switch,” making it a fully automatic machine gun, along with a loaded large drum magazine as well as three sets of body armor.

Notably, Maddox engaged in this conduct after already amassing multiple criminal convictions over the course of the last 30 years, including, residential burglary, vehicle theft, domestic violence, negligent driving, protection order violations, assault, and drug trafficking. Maddox also has a previous federal conviction for drug trafficking in 2015, when he told arresting officers that he had been dealing drugs “for years” in the Spokane area and that he was one of the area’s largest drug dealers. He further advised that during the two years before that arrest, he was dealing approximately one pound of methamphetamine and one ounce of heroin every other day. His criminal history also shows that when he was engaged in the conduct at issue in this case, he committed a drive-by-shooting during which he fired eight rounds into an occupied residence and several days later, fired approximately 17 times into an occupied vehicle (Spokane County Superior Court Case Number 23-1-10840-32).

“Stopping the production and flow of fentanyl into our communities is one of the most challenging crises we face as law enforcement. This is a matter of importance as it will protect public health. This investigation and prosecution provide a tremendous example of the collaborative approach we take to fighting this serious and ever-increasing threat to our communities,” said U.S. Attorney Serrano. “The volume of fentanyl that this investigation took off the street is truly staggering. I cannot overstate the impact our team made here, by identifying a repeat criminal who was manufacturing vast quantities of this deadly drug while heavily armed. Removing him for decades will protect this community in ways seen and unseen. We want the public to know that these threats exist and that our team is working tirelessly to combat them wherever and whenever they appear.”

“Mr. Maddox is a career criminal who endangered the safety and health of our community with a truly lethal mix of homemade counterfeit fentanyl pills and automatic weapons,” said David F. Reames, Special Agent in Charge of the DEA Seattle Field Division. “Mr. Maddox made fentanyl even more dangerous by recklessly mixing substances at home, where he could include anything he chose into his deadly concoctions. Mr. Maddox spent years peddling misery and death for his own enrichment and I am proud that DEA and our partners could put an end to his trafficking with this sentence.”

“HSI Seattle answered the President's call to confront our nation’s fentanyl crisis head-on by bringing justice in one of Eastern Washington’s largest pill manufacturing cases,” said HSI Seattle Acting Special Agent in Charge Colin Jackson. “With this sentencing, Maddox is held accountable for endangering a residential neighborhood by operating a makeshift narcotics lab that housed enough fentanyl to produce over two million lethal pills. Clearly, Maddox had no regard for public safety and was only out to make a profit. This case underscores HSI’s unwavering dedication to safeguard our communities and protect the well-being of the American people.”

“I am confident that the removal of this significant and lethal amount of fentanyl, other dangerous drugs, and cache of weapons, combined with the equipment used to produce and distribute these deadly pills rapidly, saved lives,” stated Spokane County Sheriff John Nowels. “This is a direct result of the strong partnership between our local law enforcement agencies and our federal

colleagues. Together, we share the goal of eliminating this destructive poison from our community and ensuring that those who pedal it are held accountable.”

Adams is still pending trial which is currently set for December 2025.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Homeland Security Investigations, the Regional Anti-Violence Enforcement & Narcotics (RAVEN) Task Force, and the Spokane Police Department. It is prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Caitlin Baunsgard.

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