



For Immediate Release
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Chicago Man Sentenced to Prison for Cigarette Smuggling

Chicago – Attorney General Lisa Madigan and the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) announced today that Johnell E. Henderson, 36, of Chicago was sentenced to one-year in the Illinois Department of Corrections after he pleaded guilty to felony cigarette smuggling. Henderson was arrested on May 15, 2013 as a result of a traffic stop by Illinois State Police.

“I am pleased to see that the courts take cigarette smuggling as seriously as we do,” said Connie Beard, Director of Revenue. “When black market cigarettes are sold in Illinois, not only does the state get cheated out of significant tax revenues, our law-abiding retailers lose sales. The efforts of all involved send a clear message that violators of our tax law will be held accountable for their actions.”

Henderson was arrested with approximately 1,470 packages of Newport 100 cigarettes from the State of Missouri. IDOR Criminal Special Agents determined that he was not authorized to possess or transport the contraband cigarettes. The case was then referred to the Attorney General for prosecution. Henderson had a prior felony narcotics conviction and had previously spent time in IDOC.

Assistant Attorney General Lori Jordan and Victor Turla handled the case for Madigan’s Special Prosecutions Bureau.

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