

Man sentenced in drug deal

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name was unavailable, asked Sequino to spare her domestic partner of six years, saying he was a "good person."

"He did this out of desperation," she said through sobs. "I know if he gets one more chance, he'll do good."

Johnson was arrested last summer after West Haven police received information from an informant that a delivery of marijuana would take place in the city June 20.

The police department's street crime unit set up surveillance near Campbell Avenue, police said. Shortly before 6 p.m., city police officers along with members of the Statewide Narcotics Task Force pulled over a 1992 Nissan

Pathfinder driven by Johnson behind Micky D's bar, 703 Campbell Ave., police said.

Patrol officer Paul Sires and his partner, police dog "Jake," conducted a search of Johnson's car, and inside found two pounds of marijuana, police said.

Johnson consented to a search of his home, where investigators found 13 pounds of marijuana in a refrigerator, a stolen handgun and more than \$8,000 in cash, police said.

Pot deal ends in 3 years of prison

By Tucker McCormack
Register Staff

MILFORD — A Bridgeport man caught with 15 pounds of marijuana after an informant tipped off police last year to a delivery in West Haven was sentenced to three years in prison this week.

The sentence came following a defense claim that the man's actions were motivated by "economic desperation."

Judge Karen Nash Sequino said that while Robert Johnson, 34, deserved some credit for being a supportive father, she could not excuse "behavior" that police say would have trafficked some \$60,000 in marijuana on the streets.

Sequino sentenced Johnson to a prison term that was two years less than the maximum permitted under a plea agreement with the defendant. Johnson had previously pleaded guilty to drugs and weapons charges, and had faced up to five years in prison.

The sentence was imposed after Johnson's lawyer, Tara Knight of New Haven, argued for house arrest and probation, saying her client's main concern was the welfare of his four children.

Knight said Johnson, a Jamaican immigrant living in an impoverished and crime-ridden Bridgeport neighborhood, resorted to dealing drugs to feed his children and help his family survive.

"Again, he made a foolish choice because of desperation," Knight said.

Sequino said any punishment less than jail would send the wrong message.

"The judgment of the court deals with behaviors that are deemed harmful to society and warrant jail," Sequino said. "The dealing of drugs is far more destructive than the jailing of drug offenders."

Johnson's girlfriend, whose

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