

EX-CITY COCAINE KINGPIN GUILTY HANSERD MAKES PLEA TO PROTECT SON'S MOM

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Former Detroit cocaine kingpin **Edward Hanserd** went against his attorney's advice and pleaded guilty Tuesday to a drug trafficking conspiracy charge that could put him in prison for life.

He did it to keep the mother of his 2-year-old son out of prison, **Hanserd** 's court-appointed attorney said after the plea before U.S. District Judge Barbara Hackett.

"I can tell you this," Stephen Rabaut told newspaper reporters, "Ed **Hanserd** entered a guilty plea to protect Stephanie Jacobs. He wanted to make sure she wasn't incarcerated."

In the deal with the U.S. Attorney's Office, Jacobs, 21, already had pleaded guilty Tuesday morning to handling criminally derived money -- three checks totaling \$15,000.

In return for the pleas by the pair, and Jacobs agreeing to testify in the case now pending against five other defendants, prosecutors agreed to drop the drug conspiracy charge that could have put her in prison for life. They recommended that she get no more than a year in a community- based correctional center or home confinement.

She could have gotten 10 years in prison and a \$30,000 fine.

Both plea bargains are subject to Hackett's final decision.

Rabaut said of **Hanserd** 's action, "It took me by surprise, let me tell you. His position was, 'I grew up without a parent, and I think it hurt my life, and I wasn't going to let my son grow up without both his.' "

Five-foot-seven **Hanserd** -- known as "Big Ed" because of his temper -- gave short answers under oath. A Detroit Osborn High School dropout, **Hanserd** , 28, told the judge, "I went to high school three years, and I didn't pass the ninth grade."

But starting in 1984, he reputedly built and ran one of the four largest drug rings in Detroit. Federal documents allege it was a \$54-million-a-year operation by the time he was arrested in January 1989 in Berrien County carrying a suitcase containing \$369,000.

Under questioning Tuesday from Assistant U.S. Attorney F. William Soisson, **Hanserd** was brief in his 20-minute appearance. When the judge asked what he had done, he said, "I distributed kilos in mostly the Detroit city area."

With others? "With others."

Count 1, conspiring to possess with intent to distribute cocaine? "Guilty."

Count 5, having a firearm while drug dealing on July 14, 1988? "Guilty."

Count 6, having a firearm the next day, also while trafficking in Detroit? "Guilty."

Though the government dropped seven charges against **Hanserd** , his attorney said, "There's no deal for him." He could face life, plus five years consecutively for each of the firearms counts.

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