

## Warren man pleads guilty to money laundering

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WARREN -- A 45-year-old Warren man pleaded guilty to money laundering Thursday in U.S. District Court in Detroit.

Raheel "Ray" Shiekh is alleged to have helped a drug organization buy buildings in Detroit and other locations in 2004 and 2005.

During that time, Shiekh converted more than \$1.2 million in currency into cashiers checks that were used to purchase buildings in Detroit, Highland Park and Georgia.

The buildings were purchased with different names to disguise the ownership, and Shiekh received a \$25,000 commission from the **Quasand Lewis** drug organization.

"Mr. Shiekh's guilty plea highlights the significant role money laundering played to support the drug trafficking (of) this organization," Robert Corso, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration special agent in charge, said in a statement. "DEA and our law enforcement partners will continue to leave no stone unturned while uncovering the money and assets gain through illegal means."

A sentencing date in federal court for Shiekh has not been set.

**Lewis** was sentenced on Dec. 11 to 18 years in jail for illegal drug trafficking after admitting to organizing the distribution of more than 10,000 kilograms of marijuana in the Detroit area.

"I salute the dedication and tireless efforts of the entire law enforcement teams who worked together to bring down the **Lewis** drug organization," U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said in a statement. "Their dedication reflects the finest in cooperation and teamwork between federal and local law enforcement agencies."

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