

N.L. man gets prison term for selling heroin near school

By [CARY ASHBY](#) ...#8221; Reflector Staff Writer

A New London heroin dealer was sentenced to a year in prison Thursday for two March incidents near the St. Paul social hall.

The court ordered Pelmer Owens, 48, of 29 Westwood Drive, to forfeit \$1,000 cops seized and the 1996 Ford Thunderbird the defendant used during a March 18 incident. Norwalk Police Detective Sgt. Todd Temple said Owens used the car to transport the heroin.

“It wasn’t a lot (of heroin). It was a sale to an undercover informant that knew Pelmer. It was less than bulk,” Huron County Assistant Prosecutor Richard Woodruff said.

There were two transactions two days apart, he explained, and Owens was arrested after the second one. Temple added that authorities sold five or six balloons of heroin during each of the March 16 and 18 incidents. Each of the balloons has a street value of \$40.

“We did a buy/bust,” Temple said.

Several confidential informants earlier told police they suspected Owens was selling heroin, the detective explained. Those tips led to several weeks of investigation.

Besides Temple, the following authorities also were involved in the probe: Huron County Sheriff’s Capt. Bob McLaughlin of METRICH, the New London Police Department and Bob McDowell, investigator for the Huron County Prosecutor’s office.

When Owens was arrested March 18 on Milan Avenue, he had some of the marked money from the first buy and all of it from the second transaction, Woodruff said.

Owens agreed to plead guilty Dec. 3 to one count of trafficking in heroin in exchange for a second charge being dismissed. Woodruff said the New London man was indicted on fourth-degree felonies instead of fifth-degree charges because the incidents happened near a school.

Originally Published on Friday, January 18, 2008