

**News Release from  
The Honorable Sandra Doorley  
Monroe County District Attorney**

September 7, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Makiesha Hawkins Sentenced to 20 Years for 11 Counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance and Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia Charges**

Rochester, NY- On Thursday, September 6, County Court Judge Vincent Dinolfo sentenced 34-year-old Makiesha Hawkins to 20 years in the New York State Department of Corrections. Hawkins was convicted on August 2, 2018 of 4 counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, 5 counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree and 2 counts of Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree.

Over the course of numerous months, the Rochester Police Department Special Investigation Section conducted a long-term investigation into the drug trafficking activities of Makiesha Hawkins and her associates. Utilizing various investigatory means, including the use of covert surveillance and undercover officers, investigators purchased large quantities of cocaine from Hawkins, and a number of street level dealers under her direct supervision, on October 30, 2017, November 13, 2017, November 16, 2017 and November 20, 2017. On November 21, 2017, Rochester police executed a search warrant on Hawkins' home and recovered additional quantities of cocaine, as well as all the material and equipment needed to package and prepare narcotics for sale. County Court Judge Vincent Dinolfo found her guilty on all 12 counts of the indictment after a Bench Trial.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Gregory Clark, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

"This conviction is the result of the hard work of the Rochester Police Department Special Investigation Section," said Assistant District Attorney Gregory Clark. "Makeisha Hawkins was a long-time drug dealer and leader of a drug gang in our community. She will no longer be selling drugs on our streets."

"Drug dealers need to be held accountable for promoting contraband in our community," said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "The conviction and lengthy prison sentence of defendant Hawkins is another victory in our fight to combat our county's drug epidemic. Thanks to the hard work of Assistant District Attorney Gregory Clark and the Rochester Police Department, there is one less drug dealer on our streets today."

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