**U.S. Department of Justice**

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FORMER FBI AGENT SENTENCED FOR OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE, FALSIFYING RECORDS, AND POSSESSING HEROIN

PHILADELPHIA - Matthew Lowry, 33, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, was sentenced today to 36 months in prison for tampering with substantial quantities of drug evidence while working as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"). Lowry pleaded guilty to 20 counts of obstruction of justice, 18 counts of falsification of records, 13 counts of conversion of property, and 13 counts of possession of heroin. U.S. District Court Judge Thomas F. Hogan, in the District of Columbia, also ordered 2 years of supervised release, a $15,000 fine, and a $5,425. special assessment.

Lowry was assigned to the Washington, D.C. Field Office ("WFO"), and was a member of the Cross-Border Task Force ("CBTF"). He participated in the undercover purchase of heroin and, in lieu of turning the heroin into evidence and documenting its seizure, Lowry ingested the heroin. He also tampered with heroin evidence seized during several of his investigations.

The matter was referred to the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, which conducted the investigation, with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation as requested by the OIG. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Kevin R. Brenner and Maureen McCartney.

Because Lowry's investigations, as an agent, occurred within the District of Columbia and the districts surrounding it, those offices were recused by the Department of Justice.

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