



Charles and his son, Charles Jr. during prison visit

- **Current Age:** 38
- **Time Served:** 14 years
- **Age at Time of Offense:** 24
- **Sentence:** 30 years
- **Federal Offense:** Conspiracy to distribute cocaine
- **Prior convictions:** None
- **Release Date:** November 24, 2030

Fourteen years ago, Charles was arrested at the young age of 24 in his hometown of Gary, Indiana and is serving a 30-year sentence for his role in a drug conspiracy to distribute powder cocaine. Prior to the instant case, he had absolutely no previous convictions – felony or otherwise Unless Charles is granted clemency, he is set to spend 12 more years in prison, which equates to over half of his life. Keeping Charles in prison for over another decade serves no useful purpose to himself or to our society.

Notably, the former mayor of Gary, Indiana, Richard G. Hatcher, supports clemency for Charles. Mr. Hatcher writes, “[T]hrough my many years of direct involvement with the justice system as well as serving for 20 years as the first African American mayor of a major city in America, I have seen many similar stories evolve. Some outcomes have not been the best; however, I have also known many people who have shown remorse for their crimes, used their incarceration to better themselves and have been rehabilitated.” Mr. Hatcher further writes in support of Charles:

“I am confident that [Charles] is capable of returning to society as a very productive citizen.” – Richard G. Hatcher (former mayor of Gary, Indiana | 1968-1987)

Charles was by no stretch a drug kingpin and absolutely no aspect of his conduct was violent. He was arrested with “simulated” cocaine as the result of a controlled meeting set up by law enforcement with a confidential informant. Even though Charles was never found to be in possession of any drugs (other than the fake cocaine), the judge held Charles responsible for the quantity of drugs attributable to the entire conspiracy based primarily on co-defendant testimony. These co-defendants received lesser sentences in exchange for their cooperation.

He has been on a continuous path of self-improvement since the beginning of his incarceration. He has received numerous certificates, including several courses to substantially enhance his education and personal development. Significantly, Charles graduated in 2011 from the intense 18-month faith-based Life Connection Program (“LCP”). LCP is a highly regarded program within the Bureau of Prisons with limited space (only offered at 5 federal prisons across the nation) and a strict curriculum. An offender must receive a recommendation from staff and approval from the Warden to even qualify for the program. Participants in LCP have no extra incentive to participate – other than a personal desire to change and grow. This speaks volumes of Charles’ resilient character and determination to succeed.

Charles has strong family and community support; the ability, opportunity, and desire to work upon release; and a strong desire to be a responsible father to his 15 year old son. For the past 14 years of his incarceration he has purposefully engaged in educational activities, vocational skills training, and re-entry programming which is highly indicative of post-release success. Charles is well positioned to re-enter society as a productive citizen.