

# Man gets 33 years on felony drug charges

Had been convicted twice previously and had served nearly eight years for those offenses

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A Lynchburg man was sentenced to 33 years in prison Tuesday for nine felony drug distribution charges in what the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office described as one of the stiffest punishments in years for a city drug dealer.

Vincent Leon Dawson, 33, pleaded guilty to four counts of distribution of cocaine; two counts of distribution of cocaine in a school zone; two counts of possession of cocaine with intent to distribute; and one drug-related

## Lynchburg

charge of obstruction of justice.

In Lynchburg Circuit Court on Tuesday, Judge F. Patrick Yeatts sentenced Dawson to 75 years in prison and suspended 42 years.

Dawson twice had been convicted of selling cocaine out of his mother's house at 1300 16th Street in 2002 and 2007 and had served nearly eight years for those offenses, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee said.

In late 2012, Lynchburg Police received information Dawson was sell-



Dawson

ing again and used a local informant to make three cocaine buys in December 2012 and in January, Felmlee said. In the first two buys, he said, Dawson walked out of his house and sold the cocaine within 1,000 feet of the back playground lot of R.S. Payne Elementary School.

Felmlee said Dawson was videotaped selling cocaine to an informant in a room at the Travel Lodge on Main Street in late January. Police waited for Dawson when he left the room. He attempted to run and fought with police; officers used a Taser to subdue him, Felmlee said.

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