

# Tim Long won't go to prison for money laundering

By Chris Ison  
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A federal judge decided Thursday that Timothy Long, convicted of laundering drug money through his family's car dealerships, will not go to prison, but he imposed significant prison sentences on three co-defendants involved in the same money-laundering scheme.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Harry MacLaughlin brought tears of relief to members of the well-known St. Paul family, which has disputed the money-laundering charges for nearly a year. But it sparked an angry response from antidrug activists who had monitored the case and advocated tough sentences.

Federal authorities had cast the Long dealerships — which have since been sold — as central to a money-laundering enterprise involving drug trafficker Ralph (Plukey) Duke and others. They charged Long, his brother Rick Long and cousin James Long with conspiracy to launder drug money.

But Rick and James Long were acquitted last June, and although Tim Long had been convicted on two counts, MacLaughlin determined yesterday that he shouldn't go to prison because of health problems related to a head injury he suffered in 1989.

Instead, Long, 27, will be confined to his home for a year and subject to electronic monitoring to ensure he stays there. He can leave only for medical or religious reasons, and must pay a \$100,000 fine and provide 300 hours of community service. He will serve five years of pro-

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