

Department of Justice

United States Attorney Lawrence J. Laurenzi

Western District of Tennessee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JORDON

CONTACT: LEIGH ANNE

PHONE: (901) 544-4231

www.usdoj.gov/usao/tnw
544-4230

FAX: (901)

Memphis, TN- A Federal Grand Jury has returned thirty-five (35) indictments that were presented as a part of the Memphis / Shelby County Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Initiative announced Lawrence J. Laurenzi, United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee. These indictments are the result of collaborative efforts between the United States Attorney's Office, the Shelby County District Attorney General's Office (DA's Office), the Memphis Police Department (MPD), the **Shelby County Sheriff's Office (SCSO)**, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and the United States Marshal's Service.

Today's indictments charge thirty-nine(39) individuals with federal firearms violations, including being previously convicted felons in possession of firearms and/or ammunition, possession with intent to distribute cocaine and marijuana, using firearms during drug trafficking crimes and crimes of violence, business robberies, and perjury.

Since February 11, 2002, members of the PSN Task Force, which is housed and supervised by MPD and comprised of 12 MPD Detectives and a Lieutenant, **two SCSO Deputies**, two ATF Special Agents have met weekly to review every arrest involving a firearm that occurs in Shelby County. These cases are presented each week to federal and state court prosecutors. The number of cases reviewed and prosecuted through this unit are staggering, over 14,178 cases have been reviewed resulting in over 1,225 indictments in federal court and over 600 guilty pleas in state court to "above-range" offers to avoid the higher federal penalties for firearms related offenses. This approach ensures that whenever possible defendants with the most serious criminal history and

those who pose a danger to the community are subjected to the higher federal penalties for gun crime, while other individuals charged with illegal gun possession are given the opportunity to enter a guilty plea in state court that ensures they will serve jail time.

All of the PSN Partner Agencies are committed to shutting down revolving door justice by prioritizing firearms related investigations and warrants. Prior to today's indictments, the number of PSN fugitives was thirteen (13), down from eighty (80) when the PSN Unit took over serving the federal arrest warrants on PSN cases in 2003. In addition to their presence on the PSN task force, ATF is involved in federal firearms investigations, which led to three of the indictments returned today for criminal activity occurring in Fayette County, Tipton County, and Dyersburg, Tennessee.

The U.S. Attorney's Office and Shelby County DA's Office continue to make the prosecution of gun crimes and related violent crimes a priority. In addition to the many initiatives of the Shelby County DA's office targeting violent crime, District Attorney General William L. Gibbons has assigned two of his Assistant District Attorney's to the United States Attorney's Firearms Unit, which also includes four federal prosecutors. During August and September, prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Firearms Unit, have obtained guilty pleas in twenty (20) firearms cases and handled sentencing proceedings on twenty-one (21) firearms defendants who received non-paroleable sentences up 17 years in federal prison.

Recent significant cases handled by the firearms unit are as follows:

On August 11, 2009, U.S. District Judge Thomas Anderson sentenced Demario Davis to a 120 month non-probationable federal sentence and 3 years of Supervised Release in relation to Davis' June 21, 2008 arrest by MPD officers who spotted Defendant engaged in a game of dice. As officers approached, Defendant fled into an apartment, while reaching for a firearm in his waistband. Officers pursued and observed Defendant discard the firearm in the apartment. The Defendant, after a brief struggle, was apprehended in the rear of the apartment complex. (Prosecution of this case is being handled by AUSA Daniel French).

On August 14, 2009, Carl Davis, a previously convicted felon, entered a guilty plea related to a gun and marijuana seized during the execution of a search warrant of drug house on March 13, 2008 by MPD. Davis is scheduled to be sentenced by U. S. District Judge Bernice B. Donald on

November 18, 2009. (Prosecution of this case is being handled by AUSA Matthew Price)

On August 20, 2009, Keith Jenkins, entered a guilty plea in connection with his arrest in relation to an ATF investigation of stolen-firearms dealers connecting Jenkins with three stolen pistols and gun sales to undercover officers. Jenkins is scheduled to be sentenced by U. S. District Judge Thomas Anderson on November 18, 2009. (Prosecution of this case is being handled by AUSA Matthew Price)

On August 26, 2009, U.S. District Judge Samuel H. Mays sentenced Lonnie Davis, a previously convicted felon, to a 192 month non-probatable sentence in federal prison to be followed by 3 years of Supervised Release in relation to Davis' May 2, 2008 arrest by officers who observed Davis in a 2000 Red Hyundai parked in the grass in the area of Orleans and South Parkway. As officers approached the vehicle, they observed Davis in the driver's seat with an open container of alcohol. A subsequent search revealed live rounds of 20 gauge shotgun ammunition and a Remington 20 gauge shotgun in Davis' possession. (Prosecution of this case is being handled by AUSA Daniel French)

On August 27, 2009, Sherman Harper, a previously convicted felon, entered a guilty plea related to his possession of a firearm in connection with the December, 2008 shooting of his then girlfriend. Sherman is set to be sentenced by U. S District Judge Samuel H. Mays on December 4, 2009. (Prosecution of this case is being handled by SAUSA / ADA Corliss Shaw)

On August 28, 2009, U.S. District Judge Samuel H. Mays sentenced Derrick Benton to ten years incarceration for carrying and using a firearm during a drug transaction involving crack cocaine, as well as multiple convictions for crack cocaine and marijuana sales. (Prosecution of this case is being handled by AUSA Jennifer Lawrence Webber.)

On August 31, 2009, Chief U. S. District Judge Jon P. McCalla sentenced Marcus Carr, a previously convicted felon, to a 110 month non-probatable sentence in federal prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release in relation to Carr's October 24, 2007 arrest on outstanding warrants for aggravated burglary, theft of property over \$1000, and escape. Officers received information about Carr's location and went to a residence on Lucy and located Carr hiding in a closet in possession of a loaded handgun beside him. (Prosecution of this case is being handled by AUSA Michelle Kimbril-Parks).

On September 2, 2009, Chief U. S. District Judge Jon P. McCalla sentenced Develae Paige, a previously convicted felon, to a 200 month

non-probatable sentence in federal prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release in relation to Paige's July 15, 2008 arrest where witnesses reported Paige shooting a gun in Binghampton. (Prosecution of this case is being handled by SAUSA / ADA G. Kirby May).

On September 16, 2009, Darrell Crawford entered a guilty plea to an indictment charging him with Hobbs Act Robbery and using a firearm during a crime of violence in relation to Crawford's arrest on July 22, 2008 when Crawford jumped over the counter at the Title Max located at 3130 Austin Peay armed with a handgun demanding money from the register as well as jewelry from the victim / employee. A customer called 911 and officers arrested Crawford with the victim in the bathroom at the rear of the business. Crawford is set to be sentenced on December 17, 2009 by U.S. District Judge Thomas Anderson. (Prosecution of this case is being handled by AUSA Daniel French).

On September 28, 2009, U. S. District Judge Thomas Anderson sentenced Sylvester Clark, a previously convicted felon, to a 156 month non-probatable sentence in federal prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release in relation to CLARK'S June 3, 2008 arrest for attempting to conceal over 400 grams of cocaine in a laundry room when Deputies with the SCSO Street Crimes Unit approached Clark after recognizing him as a wanted party on a 2006 narcotics and firearms warrant. (Prosecution of this case is being handled by AUSA Michelle Kimbril-Parks).

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Leigh Anne Jordon

Law Enforcement Coordinator

U. S. Attorney's Office-WDTN

167 North Main Street, Suite 800

Memphis, TN 38103

(901) 969-2962 Direct

(901) 544-3427 Fax

From: Jordon, Leigh Anne (USATNW)

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2009 1:41 PM

To: Associated Press; awise@wmctv.com; Bill Dries; Commercial Appeal; Commercial Appeal; Commercial Appeal; Commercial Appeal; Commercial Appeal; Commercial Appeal; Commercial Appeal; Commercial Appeal; Crime Commission; Daily News; E Collins; Fox 13; Fox13; Jackson Baker; La Prensa Latina; media@mortgagefraudblog.com; Memphis Business Journal; Memphis Flyer; Memphis Flyer; Mid-South Tribune; Millington Star; PAO (SMO); Shelby County; Silver Star; Tri-State Defender; WKNO; WMCTV; WMCTV; WMCTV; WMCTV; WMCTV; WPTY; WREC; WREC; WREG; WREG; WREG; WREG; WREG; WREG; WREG; WREG

Subject: Press Release and Press Availability

Below is a press release on PSN cases. If you would like to follow up with and schedule an interview, representatives US Attorney Larry Laurenzi and representatives from MPD, the Shelby County DA's Office, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, and ATF will be available at the Federal Building, 167 North Main Street, Suite 800 beginning at 3:00pm. Please call Leigh Anne Jordon at 901-969-2962 or email me to schedule at time. Thank you.

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Note: Charges brought against a person through a Criminal Complaint or Indictment are accusations only. That person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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