



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Steubenville Resident Convicted On Charges of Tampering with a Witness

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA — A 24 year old Steubenville, Ohio, resident was convicted by a federal trial jury on January 11, 2007, after a two and one-half day trial in United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia in Wheeling before Judge Frederick P. Stamp, Jr.

United States Attorney Sharon L. Potter announced that RICARDO M. SUGGS, of 809 Superior Street, Steubenville, Ohio, was convicted on two counts of a Superseding Indictment charging him with tampering with a witness.

Specifically, SUGGS was convicted on:

- Count Two of the Superseding Indictment charging him with attempting to kill a Steubenville, Ohio, resident by shooting him in his home the night of on July 21, 2006, to prevent his attendance and testimony at a jury trial in the matter of *United States v. Ricardo M. Suggs*; and

- Count Three of the Superseding Indictment charging him with using physical force and threat of physical force against the Steubenville resident and his mother also on the night of July 21, 2006, with the intent to influence, delay, and prevent his testimony at a jury trial in the matter of *United States v. Ricardo M. Suggs*.

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SUGGS was acquitted on Count Four of the Superseding Indictment charging him with tampering with a witness.

SUGGS, who is in custody pending sentencing, faces a maximum exposure of 20 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000 each on Counts Two and Three of the Superseding Indictment.

Count One of the Superseding Indictment charging SUGGS with being a felon in possession of a firearm in Weirton, was severed by the Court. SUGGS was tried and convicted on that count in November 2006, which involved SUGGS' possession of two loaded pistols in his vehicle. As a convicted felon, he was not permitted to possess firearms under federal law. (Note: This was the count contained in the initial Indictment returned against SUGGS.)

The case was prosecuted under the *Project Safe Homes Initiative* by Assistant United States Attorney David J. Perri. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Weirton Police Department; and the Steubenville Police Department.

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