

NEWS RELEASE

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CAPE GIRARDEAU MAN SENTENCED TO 235 FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

February 12, 2007

A Cape Girardeau, Missouri man was sentenced today on charges of unlawful possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

CHARLES WEISSINGER, age 37, was sentenced to 235 months on one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He appeared before United States District Judge Catherine D. Perry.

On February 14, 2006, the Cape Girardeau Police Department received a report of shots fired on South Benton Street in Cape Girardeau. They investigated this report and discovered a person wounded in a shooting at that location. The investigation resulted in an arrest of two individuals who were charged with the shooting of the victim. One of those people gave a

statement that he traded the pistol involved in the shooting from Charles Weissinger for a quantity of cocaine. He told the officers where the pistol was located and it was recovered.

On March 21, 2006, an ATF agent and a Cape Girardeau detective interviewed Mr. Weissinger. Mr. Weissinger told the officers that around September, 2005, he broke into a car on Route W in Cape Girardeau County and took a firearm from that car. He said he traded the firearm to one of the men referred to above who was later involved in the shooting for a quantity of cocaine. Due to Mr. Weissinger's previous felony convictions, he is prohibited by law from possessing firearms.

Hanaway praised the Cape Girardeau Police Department, the Cape Girardeau County Sheriff's Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.