



*Eastern District of Michigan
211 W. Fort Street*

*Suite 2001
Detroit, Michigan 48226*

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CONTACT: Gina Balaya
(313) 226-9758
Vera Fedorak-ATF (313) 259-7917

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DETROIT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL GUN CHARGES

A 54-year-old Detroit man pleaded guilty today to federal gun charges carrying a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years imprisonment, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Valerie Goddard, Special Agent in Charge, Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Entering the guilty plea before United States District Judge Robert Cleland was Larry Gavin.

The federal charges arose following Gavin's arrest by Detroit Police officers on August 18, 2006, who found Gavin loitering outside a known narcotics trafficking location in the City of Detroit. At the time of his arrest Gavin was in possession of a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun.

Gavin entered the guilty plea in United States District Court before Judge Robert H. Cleland. Gavin pleaded guilty to felon in possession of a firearm, following three serious felony offense convictions, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §922(g) and §924(e). Gavin's plea was entered pursuant to a plea agreement with the government.

Gavin has prior felony criminal convictions which include Breaking and Entering a Building with Intent and Assault with Intent to Do Great Bodily Harm less than Murder. Based upon his prior criminal record, Gavin faces a potential sentence of 15 years to life imprisonment. Sentencing has been scheduled for June 26, 2007 at 2:00 pm.

U.S. Attorney Murphy said, "Prior convicted violent felons have no business possessing firearms. That is what Project Safe Neighborhoods tries to address: taking guns away from those who have a history of violent crimes, and taking them off the streets."

SAC Goddard said, "Federal prosecution of armed career criminals is a top priority for ATF. The sentence imposed in this case will ensure that this repeat and violent offender is off our streets for the next 15 years."

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Gillooly.