

# Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
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**Eastern District of Louisiana**



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## **TWO NEW ORLEANS MEN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON IN POLICE SHOOTING**

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA - Two New Orleans men were sentenced today in federal court on federal gun violations, announced United States Attorney Jim Letten.

CHRIS WILLIAMS, 23, of New Orleans, Louisiana, was sentenced for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Federal Judge Carl Barbier sentenced WILLIAMS to 63 months in federal prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. Co-defendant, JEREL CLAVO, 21, also of New Orleans, Louisiana, was sentenced for being in possession of a firearm while under a bill of information for a felony offense. Judge Barbier sentenced CLAVO to 57 months in federal prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. Both defendants received the maximum punishment under the federal sentencing guidelines.

The sentencing of WILLIAMS and CLAVO comes on the heels of a two-day federal trial that began October 17, 2006. According to the evidence presented at trial, New Orleans police officers Akron Davis and John Butler were responding to the 2000 block of North Dorgenois when they were alerted by a concerned citizen of suspicious activity in the heavily Katrina-ravaged 7<sup>th</sup> ward neighborhood. Officer Davis and Butler, while on foot, observed a man in the rear yard of an abandoned home. The officers went down separate alley ways of the abandoned shotgun home when Davis spotted an armed gunman in the rear yard. Davis yelled to the gunman to drop his weapon but the subject fired twice at the police officer who returned fire upon the gunman. Officer Butler in the opposite alley way of the home was also confronted by two gunmen in the rear yard of the abandoned home. Butler testified when he was nearly in the backyard of the residence he observed CLAVO point an AK-47 type assault rifle at him down the alley way. Butler with his service weapon in hand was prepared to fire when he was confronted by a third gunman, WILLIAMS. WILLIAMS wheeled around the house with a loaded handgun and nearly ran into officer Butler. Butler fell back with his service weapon and fired upon the gunman WILLIAMS, striking WILLIAMS in the arm. Both officers were able to subdue both WILLIAMS and CLAVO but one of the armed suspects managed to scale the rear yard privacy fence and escape.

U. S. Attorney Letten calls today sentence a cooperative victory for law enforcement officers working to rid the city of New Orleans of violent crime. "The sentencing of WILLIAMS and CLAVO is direct evidence of what can be accomplished when local law enforcement officers combine their efforts with federal agents." Letten added, "NOPD Officers Davis and Butler

performed above the call of duty and I am extremely grateful of their great work in the most difficult of circumstances."

Letten added, "We need the help of every citizen in our community to stop the gun violence in New Orleans. I urge anyone with information concerning the illegal possession of firearms to call the ATF Gun Hotline at 504-581-GUNS or 504-581-4867."

This matter was investigated by the New Orleans Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The prosecution of WILLIAMS and CLAVO was handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Abram McGull, II and Steven Loew.