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TWO ROCKFORD MEN ARRESTED ON FEDERAL FIREARMS CHARGES

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; PAUL A. LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; and CHET EPPERSON, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

Two Rockford men, GERALD W. OSBORN, 19, 2425 Holmes Street, and ANTHONY M. WAINWRIGHT, 28, 757 Belmont Avenue, have been arrested after being indicted by a grand jury and charged with federal firearms offenses in connection with a burglary at Dick's Sporting Goods on July 19, 2006. OSBORN was charged with stealing firearms from a licensed firearms dealer, as well as being a felon in possession of firearms, while WAINWRIGHT was charged with receiving stolen firearms and being a felon in possession of firearms. Both men have appeared in federal court and have been ordered detained pending trial.

If convicted, both men face a maximum potential penalty of 20 years of imprisonment, up to a \$500,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of at least 2 years upon release from imprisonment, which would be set by the United States District Court. The actual sentence would be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

Osborn and Wainwright were charged in federal court as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Project Safe Neighborhoods is an intensive, cooperative effort between local, state, and federal law enforcement to attack gun crimes. The cornerstone of the program is that every defendant committing an offense involving a gun will be reviewed for possible federal prosecution in order to obtain the harshest penalties for the worst offenders. Additional information about Project Safe Neighborhoods may be found at www.psn.gov.

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Rockford Police Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Michael F. Iasparro.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Each defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which time the government has the burden of proving the guilt of each defendant beyond a reasonable doubt.

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