PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jeffrey Newkirk, 27, of Beloit, was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 15 years in federal prison, without the possibility of parole, for unlawfully possessing a firearm as a convicted felon. Newkirk pleaded guilty to this charge on February 22, 2007.

On January 25, 2006, a confidential informant working with the Beloit Police Department purchased a Ruger .44 caliber revolver, with an obliterated serial number, from Newkirk, for $300.00. Newkirk was arrested after the deal was completed and he had the prerecorded buy money in his pocket. Newkirk's 15-year sentence was mandated by federal law because he is an Armed Career Criminal due to three prior convictions for residential burglary.

The charge against Newkirk was the result of an investigation conducted by the Beloit Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

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