



Department of Justice

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District of Massachusetts

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BROCKTON MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING A FULLY LOADED FIREARM

BOSTON, MA - A Brockton man was sentenced late yesterday in federal court on charges of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan; Glenn N. Anderson, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Boston Field Division; Timothy J. Cruz, Plymouth County District Attorney; and William K. Conlon, Chief of the Brockton Police Department announced that **FLORENTINO RUIDIAZ, JR.**, age 26, of 126 French Avenue, Brockton, MA, was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, to be followed by three years of supervised release. **RUIDIAZ** pled guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm on January 17, 2007.

At the earlier plea hearing, the prosecutor told the Court that had the case proceeded to trial the Government's evidence would have proven that, on July 27, 2005, a neighbor of **RUIDIAZ**'s called 911 to report shots were being fired by individuals in a vehicle parked at 126 French Avenue in Brockton. Within minutes, the Brockton Police Department arrived at the scene and discovered **RUIDIAZ** in the illegally-parked vehicle. During a frisk search, the officers discovered a fully loaded revolver in **RUIDIAZ**'s waistband. **RUIDIAZ** previously had been convicted of three different violent or drug-related offenses in the Massachusetts state court system.

The case was prosecuted as part of President Bush's Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative which makes prosecution of firearms cases a top priority. The Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative provides a comprehensive, strategic approach to reducing gun violence in America. Since 2002, when the U.S. Attorney's Office implemented the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, eleven cities across the state, including Brockton, have joined in the program.

The case was investigated by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Brockton Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James E. Arnold of Sullivan's Health Care Fraud Unit.

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