



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grand Rapids, Michigan – May 31, 2007 – United States Attorney Charles R. Gross announced that Gary Dewayne Willis, age 25, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, was sentenced yesterday to 8 ½ years in prison to be followed by a three-year period of supervised release. The Honorable Gordon J. Quist, United States District Judge, presided over the sentencing hearing.

Mr. Willis pled guilty on January 22, 2007, to being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g); and possessing a quantity of crack cocaine with intent to distribute, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1). Mr. Willis was indicted by a federal grand jury following a traffic stop conducted by officers of the Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement Team on June 2, 2006, at which time officers encountered Mr. Willis in the possession of a loaded FIE .25 caliber semiautomatic pistol and two individual packages of crack cocaine.

Mr. Gross commended the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement Team (KVET) for their work in the case. Their joint investigation was undertaken as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. This case was prosecuted on behalf of the United States of America by Assistant United States Attorney Elisa Castrolugo.

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