



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Los Angeles Field Division

Contact: Susan Raichel, PIO
Office: (213) 534-2411
Cell: (213) 925-4547

For Immediate Release
FY-07-43
Sept. 11, 2007

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIPS GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO 150 MONTHS FEDERAL PRISON

LOS ANGELES – Neighborhood Crips gang member Melvin Adams was sentenced to 150 months in federal prison, with five (5) years supervised release Monday, by U.S. District Court Judge Takasugi, for violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A)(iii), Distribution of Cocaine Base (Crack Cocaine).

Special Agent in Charge John A. Torres, of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), is pleased with the sentence imposed on Adams. “Today’s sentence reinforces that ATF will not put up with armed gang violence and the drug trade that fuels it,” Torres said. “This is an outstanding example of the combined weight of federal, state and local law enforcement joining forces and bringing these gang members to justice.”

The arrests of 22 Neighborhood Crips gang members in April of 2007, followed a three-year undercover investigation conducted under the ATF-led Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT) initiative. VCIT teams seek to identify, disrupt, arrest and prosecute the “worst of the worst” criminals in 29 U.S. cities, including Los Angeles.

The gang’s criminal activities have included murder, gun and narcotics trafficking, drive-by shootings, assaults, robbery, counterfeiting, witness retaliation and other intimidation efforts. During the course of the investigation, investigators recovered or purchased 45 firearms, including handguns, shotguns, assault weapons and sawed-off shotguns; 147 rounds of ammunition; 1,834 grams of crack cocaine; 137 grams of powder cocaine; 87 grams of marijuana; 8 grams of methamphetamine; 64 tablets of the illegal narcotic Ecstasy and \$47,800 in currency.

More information on ATF, VCIT and other programs to reduce violent crime can be found at www.atf.gov.

###