



Department of Justice

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FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS TUSCALOOSA MAN

TUSCALOOSA, AL - Alabama 'ICE' (*Isolate the Criminal Element*) kicked off in Tuscaloosa County in June with the arrest of ten people by the Tuscaloosa Police Department and Special Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and members of the Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force. Today, the first jury trial resulted in a guilty verdict for Reginald Dewayne Dixon, 35, of Tuscaloosa. Dixon was found guilty of being a convicted felon in possession of a Smith and Wesson .38 caliber revolver. A sentencing hearing will be set by the Court in the near future.

"The maximum penalty of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm is ten years," stated U.S. Attorney Alice H. Martin. "We are serious about prosecuting felons who illegally possess firearms in this district. Those who do will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Dixon was arrested by Tuscaloosa Police Officers in April 2007. An alert officer, while on patrol, recognized Dixon as having an outstanding warrant for domestic violence. The police officer attempted to apprehend Dixon and he fled. After a brief chase, Dixon was apprehended and officers discovered a firearm. Upon inspection of the firearm, agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives determined that the weapon was manufactured outside of the state of Alabama and was in fact reported stolen from a residence in Northport, Alabama. Dixon is a convicted felon. He was convicted of trafficking cocaine in Tuscaloosa County in 1995.

The violations of other defendants occurred in Tuscaloosa County covering a time period from December 2003 through April 2007. All were indicted in federal court in June, 2007, most of the have pled guilty and are in police custody awaiting sentencing. More information will be released on the cases as they close, however, those charged in the round up include:

Kennedy Dewayne Taylor, 33, Tuscaloosa, is charged with possession with intent to distribute crack-cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Douglas Dewayne Johnson, also known as DJ, 29, Tuscaloosa, is charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Ronnie Lee Gee, 27, of Tuscaloosa, is charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and two counts of making false statements to obtain a firearm one in Greene County and one in Bibb County.

Derek Levert Hall, 26, Tuscaloosa, is charged with two counts possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Tyrone Billips, 25, is charged with possession of a firearm by a drug user.

Eugene Dunn, Jr., 34, Birmingham, is charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Amos James Harris, 28, Tuscaloosa, is charged with possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine, and possession of a stolen firearm.

Cedric Bernard Miles, 21, Tuscaloosa, is charged in the same indictment as Harris with possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine.

William Lee Dyer, 21 Gordo, is charged with possession with the intent to distribute marijuana, and possession of a firearm in furtherance of that crime.

Sherman Cornell White, 34, Tuscaloosa, is charged with two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon,

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a successful violence reduction program initiated by the federal government. Prosecutions are a part of, and known locally as "Alabama ICE," with the average sentence in the Northern District of Alabama at seven years in federal prison. "Word on the street is that *you don't want to be Iced*," according to United States Attorney Alice H. Martin. "Our response is *don't possess an illegal firearm*." The Alabama ICE program is utilized throughout the State of Alabama and has proven to be useful in ridding the communities of habitual violent crime offenders.

"We are glad that the Dixon trial ended with a guilty verdict," stated Tuscaloosa

Police Chief Ken Swindle. “We are pleased with our decision to prosecute these cases federally because of the shorter time from incident to trial, and the significant amount of jail time given in the federal system. We appreciate the assistance from our federal law enforcement partners.”

The maximum penalty for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm is ten years in federal prison. The maximum penalty for being a drug user in possession of a firearm is ten years in federal prison. The penalty for possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance is as much as life in prison depending on the amount of the controlled substance possessed. The maximum penalty for caring a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime is not less than five years in federal prison.

Special Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives assisted the Tuscaloosa Police Department with the investigation and apprehension of the listed defendants. Assistant United States Attorney Melissa Atwood prosecuted the case on behalf of the United States Government against Dixon.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment contains only charges. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government’s burden to prove a defendant’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

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