



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*Charles R. Gross  
United States Attorney  
Western District of Michigan*

---

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, The Law Building  
330 Ionia Avenue, NW  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Mailing Address:  
United States Attorney's Office  
Post Office Box 208  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0208

Telephone (616) 456-2404  
Facsimile (616) 456-2408

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2007**  
**[WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/MIW](http://WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/MIW)**

**CONTACT: JEFF J. DAVIS**  
**ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY**  
**PHONE: (616) 456-2404**

**FLEEING FELON RUNS INTO TEN YEARS**

**GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan** – Darron Dean Howard, age 21, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was sentenced on Monday to ten years in prison following his conviction for firearms charges, U.S. Attorney Charles R. Gross announced. Howard was charged in a one-count indictment with being a felon in possession of a firearm in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1). The maximum penalty is ten years' imprisonment.

This case arose from a report of an altercation arising on February 3, 2006. The Grand Rapids Police Department was dispatched to a fight in progress in the vicinity of 77 Grandville Avenue S.W. An individual approached the officers and told them that Howard had a gun and was pointing it at people in a threatening manner. When officers approached Howard, he attempted to flee, throwing the gun under a parked vehicle. The officers retrieved the gun, a .32 Smith and Wesson, five shot revolver. When the gun was retrieved, it was loaded with one round in the chamber, and the hammer cocked back in firing position.

Howard had previously incurred a number of felony convictions, including the following: (1) Manufacture and Delivery of less than 50 grams of narcotics (cocaine); (2) Carrying a Concealed Weapon; and (3) Fleeing and Alluding. The defendant was on probation for the CCW conviction when he was arrested on the instant conviction.

Howard initially pled guilty on November 6, 2006, withdrew his guilty plea but then pled guilty again on April 30, 2007. The Hon. Paul L. Maloney, U.S. District Court Judge, sentenced him.

The investigation was a coordinated effort of the Grand Rapids Police Department, the Michigan State Police, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). The case was prosecuted under the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which is designed to reduce violent crime by targeting violent felons for federal prosecution for firearms violations, which carry stiff penalties.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeff J. Davis.

##END##