



Department of Justice

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Tampa

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TAMPA MAN SENTENCED FOLLOWING JURY CONVICTION FOR FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

Tampa, FL - Today United States District Judge James D. Whittemore sentenced GENO JACKSON, age 27, of Tampa to 25 years' imprisonment. That sentence was handed down after a jury convicted JACKSON, on August 21, 2007, of being a felon in possession of a firearm. JACKSON was arrested on December 1, 2006, after a foot chase by Tampa Police officers through a Tampa housing project. The evidence at trial showed that as JACKSON was fleeing from Tampa Police officers, he was armed with a loaded 9 mm handgun. JACKSON had previously been convicted of numerous state felony offenses, and therefore was prohibited from possessing firearms.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was investigated by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the Tampa Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Colleen Murphy Davis.