



Department of Justice

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NASHVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION

Nashville, November 27, 2007 - Edward M. Yarbrough, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee, announced that Dexter Norris of Nashville, Tennessee, was sentenced to ten years in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On July 11, 2007, in Nashville, Dexter Norris jumped in front of a vehicle that was stopped at a stop sign, pointed a shotgun at the female driver and told the driver to let him inside her vehicle and not to try anything stupid or he would kill her. Norris then pointed the shotgun at the victim's head and directed her to give him money. When the victim responded that she did not have any money, Norris instructed her to call other friends to get money, then instructed her to go to these friends' homes.

Fortunately, the victim's uncle was an off-duty Nashville Metro Police Officer. Careful not to alert Norris as to her uncle's status, the victim called her uncle to ask for "money" and asked her uncle to meet her in a parking lot. The uncle agreed and met the victim and Norris. The victim was able to subtly signal to her uncle that she had been kidnaped. The victim's uncle then left the scene in order to get his gun and call fellow officers for backup.

When Norris discovered that the victim's uncle was a police officer, Norris fled the scene. After a foot chase, police apprehended Norris and his shotgun. The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Tennessee prosecuted Norris for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

"The United States Attorney's Office is committed to prosecuting gun-related violence," says U.S. Attorney Ed Yarbrough. "This is a typical case of a violent felon who should never be allowed to possess a firearm. Keeping our neighborhoods safe from these situations is a priority for the U.S. Attorney's Office."

Norris pleaded guilty to the federal crime of being a felon in possession of a handgun. At his sentencing hearing, United States District Court Judge Aleta Trauger stated that Norris was a "one man crime wave." Norris was sentenced to the maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. He also faces thirty-years imprisonment, with 20 years of that served at one-hundred percent, on a state charge of aggravated kidnaping and 10-years imprisonment on a state charge for aggravated robbery.

The case was prosecuted as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhood program. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives and the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Paul M. O'Brien and Heather G. Childs represented the United States.