



PRESS NOTICE

REGINALD I. LLOYD
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*1441 Main Street, Suite 500 * Columbia, SC 29201 * (803) 929-3000**

December 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT PERSON: Kevin F. McDonald
(803) 929-3000**

CHARLESTON MAN SENTENCED FOR SHOOTING INCIDENT

COLUMBIA, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney REGINALD I. LLOYD stated that Damon Terrell Heyward, age 30, of Charleston, was sentenced to 110 months in federal prison for illegally possessing a firearm. United States District Judge Patrick Michael Duffy also ordered that Heyward be monitored by a United States Probation Officer for three years after completing his prison term.

Evidence presented in court established that in July 2006, police officers responded to a shooting at a North Charleston residence. There they found Wilson Swinton lying in the driveway with a gun shot wound to the chest. An eyewitness told police that Heyward had accidentally shot Swinton while playing with a revolver, and Heyward admitted to the shooting when interviewed.

At the time of the incident, Heyward was prohibited from possessing firearms

due to several prior felony convictions.

Mr. Lloyd stated that the prosecution was carried out in cooperation with the Ninth Circuit Solicitor's office, the North Charleston Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, through the joint federal, state, and local Project Ceasefire initiative. Project Ceasefire seeks to aggressively prosecute individuals who unlawfully use, possess or transfer firearms and ammunition. Assistant United States Attorney John C. Duane of the Charleston office prosecuted the case.

#####