



**U. S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
**George E. B. Holding**

*Eastern District of North Carolina*

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**WEDNESDAY - December 12, 2007**

**FAYETTEVILLE TEENAGER PLEADS TO CARJACKING**

**GREENVILLE** - United States Attorney George E. B. Holding announced that in federal court today **TORRENCE LASHAWN HOWARD**, 19, of Fayetteville, North Carolina pleaded guilty before United States Magistrate Judge James E. Gates to carjacking, in violation of 18 United States Code, Section 2119, and to using a gun during a federal crime of violence, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c).

On June 6, 2007, **HOWARD** attempted to carjack a vehicle in Fayetteville, North Carolina. When the victim refused to give **HOWARD** the keys to her car, he began striking the victim in the face with the butt of a handgun. The victim started screaming, drawing the attention of several witnesses who came to the victim's aid. **HOWARD** took off running when the witnesses started approaching. As officers pursued him, **HOWARD** tossed a .22 caliber Beretta handgun as he ran. Sentencing is set for March 3, 2008. **HOWARD** faces up to life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Fayetteville Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Jane Jackson is prosecution for the government. This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods Zero Tolerance for gun violence.

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