



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

Tampa

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THREE ORLANDO MEN SENTENCED ON DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

Orlando, FL - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill and Virginia O'Brien, Special Agent in Charge of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Tampa Field Division, announced today the sentencing of three individuals who planned the robbery of a stash house where cocaine was located. Charlie Williams, age 28, of Orlando, was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 29 years and four months for robbery, conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking offense, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Mercurio Stokes, age 23, of Orlando, was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 26 years and 10 months for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine and for carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking offense. Kylund Johnson, age 21, of Orlando was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 15 years for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine and for carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking offense.

The investigation began in early 2007 when a confidential source (CS) approached ATF and the Orange County Sheriff's Office about people committing home invasion robberies at suspected drug stash houses. An undercover ATF agent later met with

Williams and told Williams he knew of a stash house where 22-39 kilograms of cocaine was kept. Williams told the undercover ATF agent that he wanted to rob the stash house with his help.

On the afternoon of June 14, 2007 all three defendants met with the undercover ATF agent in the parking lot of a local Orlando restaurant and then went to a local storage rental facility. All three defendants were arrested without incident by ATF agents and deputies from the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Inside the defendants' vehicle, officers recovered one rifle and two hand guns.

"This joint investigation is another successful example of local and federal law enforcement working together to keep violent criminals off the streets", stated U.S. Attorney O'Neill.

"Orange County is a safer place with these violent predators off the streets and behind bars. ATF and our partners at the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the Orlando Police Department are committed to the fight against violent crime," stated Special Agent in Charge O'Brien.

This case was investigated by ATF and the Orange County Sheriff's Office. This case is part of the ATF lead Violent Crime Impact Team, which is part of a U.S. Department of Justice program that assigns extra resources to cities to reduce violent crime associated with firearms. The Orlando ATF Violent Crime Impact Team is partnered with the Orlando Police Department, the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement focusing their investigative efforts on violent offenders who use firearms in furtherance of their criminal acts.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Vincent Citro.