



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan  
District of Massachusetts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2008

[WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/MA](http://WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/MA)

CONTACT: CHRISTINA DiIORIO-STERLING

PHONE: (617)748-3356

E-MAIL: [USAMA.MEDIA@USDOJ.GOV](mailto:USAMA.MEDIA@USDOJ.GOV)

## LYNN MAN SENTENCED ON GUN TRAFFICKING CHARGES

Boston, MA... A Lynn man was sentenced on January 3, 2008 in U.S. District Court for illegal gun trafficking, being a felon in possession of firearms, manufacturing gun silencers and misuse of a social security number.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan; Glenn N. Anderson, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives - Boston Field Division; Boston Police Commissioner Edward Davis; John W. Suslak, Chief of the Lynn Police Department and Jeff Paula, Special Agent in Charge of the Office of Inspector General, Social Security Administration, Office of Investigations - Boston Field Division, announced that **MICHAEL FOWLER**, age 37, formerly of 62 Nahant Street, Lynn, Massachusetts, was sentenced in federal court to 10 years imprisonment, to be followed by three years of supervised release.

**FOWLER**, who had previously twice been convicted of trafficking in firearms, utilized the secondary gun market in Maine and New Hampshire to illegally purchase twenty-four guns, including 10 Glock and 3 Beretta semi-automatic pistols.

Using the name "Michael Smith," **FOWLER** purchased 18 of the guns in Maine and 6 in New Hampshire from legal gun owners who often advertised in local circulars. **FOWLER** transported the weapons back to Massachusetts where he obliterated the serial numbers and then sold them for approximately a \$200 profit on each gun. At least nine of the guns were recovered by law enforcement on city streets, and several of those weapons were recovered less than a month from the time that **FOWLER** purchased them on the secondary market. As part of his plea, **FOWLER** acknowledged that in transferring the firearms, he had reason to believe one would be used or possessed in connection with other felony offenses.

When federal agents executed a search warrant at **FOWLER'S** residence in Lynn, over 4,000 rounds of ammunition were seized, along with silencers and silencer parts, tools for grinding and sanding metal, firearm serial number plates and manuals for building gun silencers.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives - Boston Field Office, Boston Police Department, Lynn Police Department and the Office of Inspector General, Social Security Administration, Office of Investigations - Boston Field

Division with assistance from the Massachusetts State Police, the Essex County Sheriff's Department and the Lawrence Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William Connolly of Sullivan's Economic Crimes Unit.

###