



**U. S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Eastern District of Washington*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  Tuesday, February 05, 2008	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  Thomas Rice, First Assistant U.S. Attorney (509) 353-2767
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### **“54-YEAR OLD SPOKANE RESIDENT GETS 15-YEAR PRISON TERM FOR FIREARM POSSESSION AND CRACK COCAINE DISTRIBUTION”**

Spokane – Today, James A. McDevitt, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that 54-year old Spokane resident, Robert Lewis Norwood, was sentenced to 15-years in prison. In October 2007, a federal jury found Norwood guilty of Possession with Intent to Distribute Crack Cocaine and Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime.

The convictions stem from a local Spokane Police Department response to a domestic violence 911 call in April 2006. Police found NORWOOD with more than 5 grams of crack cocaine, drug scales and over \$9,000 cash. NORWOOD also kept a loaded .25 caliber pistol near the drugs and scales at his residence. Project Safe Neighborhoods, which promotes the cooperation of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to target firearm offenders, led to a referral of the case to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Defendant’s ultimate prosecution in federal court. The Defendant’s prior conviction for distribution of crack cocaine doubled the mandatory minimum term for the drug charge from 5 to 10 years. The firearm conviction brought a mandatory minimum consecutive 5 years in federal prison. The Defendant also received 8-years of post-release court supervision and a \$200 special penalty assessment.

James A. McDevitt, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, said, “The Norwood sentence exemplifies the importance of cooperation among local and federal agencies in taking drug dealers and their firearms off the streets. It also sends the message to street dealers who attempt to protect their illicit trade with firearms that gun and drug crimes will bring hard time.”

This investigation was conducted by the Spokane Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by K. Jill Bolton, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington.

