



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Michigan



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bay City, Michigan

**FIVE INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH STEALING GUNS
FROM GUN DEALER**

Five individuals have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Bay City, Michigan on conspiracy and other various firearms charges, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Thomas E. Brandon, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Charged in the indictment were Midland residents Zachary Stevens, 23, Matthew Stevens, 22, Nathan Chambers, 20, Michael Louchart, 33 of Chesaning and Wayne Parcham, 20 of Saginaw.

The charges are based on the theft of approximately 200 firearms from Joe Gun, Inc located at 152 Saginaw Street, Lincoln Township, Michigan. The indictment alleges that sometime between February 5, 2008 and February 6, 2008, the defendants conspired to steal firearms and ammunition from Joe Gun with the intent that the guns would then be sold.

“Through the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, the United States Attorney’s Office and ATF are committed to stem the trade in illegal firearms. While citizens have the right to obtain firearms legally, this is a case where over 150 guns were taken off the street that could have been used by criminals to commit violence in our community.”

Special Agent in Charge Brandon said, “Criminals should know that when they break into and steal firearms from a Federal firearms licensee, ATF will swiftly and aggressively respond with local law enforcement to catch them. We realize that every stolen firearm that ends up in the hands of a criminal is only a trigger pull away from ending the life of an innocent member of the community or one of our dedicated law enforcement professionals with whom we are sworn to protect. By working in partnership with the Midland County and Saginaw

County Sheriff Offices, 150 of the approximately 200 stolen firearms were recovered. This is a victory for all of us.”

To date 150 firearms and 10 black powder weapons have been recovered in Midland and Saginaw Counties.

All five defendants have appeared in federal court in Bay City for their arraignment and were temporarily detained at the request of the government pending hearings before Magistrate Judge Charles Binder. Detention hearings are currently set for Monday, March 24 at 2:30 p.m. and Tuesday, March 25 at 1:30 p.m.

If convicted on the charge of conspiracy the defendants face a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine and a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison on the charges of theft of firearms from a licensed dealer and receiving and selling stolen firearms.

United States Attorney Murphy congratulated the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Midland and Saginaw County Sheriff's Department for the significant cooperation leading to the arrests, and he noted that the case is being ably prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nancy Abraham.