



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Western District of Washington

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 7, 2008

**LAKE FOREST PARK MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO GUN AND DRUG CRIME**

*Faces a Mandatory Minimum Five Years in Prison*

SAMUEL GARRETT, 38, of Lake Forest Park, Washington, pleaded guilty today to Use/Possession of a Firearm During and in Relation to a Drug Trafficking Crime. When sentenced by U.S. District Judge Thomas S. Zilly on August 21, 2008, GARRETT faces a mandatory minimum five years in prison and up to life in prison.

According to the plea agreement, on March 6, 2008, law enforcement officers served a search warrant on GARRETT's residence in the 16700 block of 37th Avenue NE in Lake Forest Park. Inside the residence officers discovered equipment used to grow marijuana, as well as a room with a sophisticated venting system to dry marijuana. Officers found 32 pounds of marijuana, as well as equipment to package the marijuana for sale. In the master bedroom of the home, officers discovered four firearms and two safes containing both marijuana, and a bundle of \$71,000 cash. The guns were a Heckler and Kock semi-automatic 12 gauge shotgun, an unloaded Norinco AK-90 assault rifle, a loaded Beretta semi-automatic pistol, and a loaded Glock semi-automatic pistol. As part of his plea agreement, GARRETT is forfeiting to the government both his Lake Forest Park home and the \$71,000 cash.

Records in the case indicate that police had received information that fans were periodically running non-stop in the home, the lower windows were covered with a dense material like foil, and the lights seemed to be on a timer. After periodic surveillance, and after observing a distinct odor of marijuana, officers obtained a search warrant, and arrested GARRETT on March 17, 2008. GARRETT had previously come to the attention of federal law enforcement and had been charged in connection with two other men caught attempting to smuggle more than \$200,000 in cash into Canada by boat from Birch Bay, Washington. Those 2004 charges were dismissed after the other two men charged in the scheme pleaded guilty.

This case was investigated by the Lake Forest Park Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF).

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Lisca Borichewski.

For additional information please contact Emily Langlie, Public Affairs Officer for the United States Attorney's Office, at (206) 553-4110.