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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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EAST MOLINE MAN SENTENCED TO 110 MONTHS FOR BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

DAVENPORT- On June 16, 2008, Keith Martell Petty, age 27, formerly of East Moline, Illinois was sentenced by United States District Court Judge John A. Jarvey to 110 months in federal prison, announced United States Attorney Matthew G. Whitaker. Petty was sentenced after pleading guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. There is no parole in the federal system. After release from prison, Kearney will be subject to three years of supervised release. Martell was also ordered to pay an assessment of \$100 to the Crime Victim Fund.

On March 22, 2007, the Davenport Police Department received a complaint of a stolen vehicle. Officers were unable to locate and stop the stolen vehicle. Later that same evening, the complainant called back to the police department and reported that Keith Petty had gotten her car back and was returning it to her house. After the call, Davenport Police responded to a shots fired call. Witnesses reported that a male subject confronted some female subjects near a vehicle matching the description of the previously reported stolen car. The witness observed the females subjects near this car when the witness saw the black male hold a gun in the air and fire one shot. One of the females reported that an individual later identified Petty approached her, threatened to shoot her, demanded she empty her pockets, and took back the vehicle. Petty later stated he was merely attempting to recover the stolen vehicle.

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On March 29, 2007, East Moline Police responded to a report of an individual being threatened with a gun. The complainant stated that after a verbal altercation, an individual he knew as Petty pulled out a small chrome handgun and appearing to chamber a round by pulling the slide. Petty then pointed the gun at the complainant and stated he was going to shoot him. The witness then drove off. East Moline Police put out an attempt to locate Petty's vehicle.

On March 29, 2007 Davenport Police initiated a traffic stop of a vehicle for speeding. As the officer he approached the vehicle, he recognized that the vehicle fit the description of an attempt to locate message received earlier for unlawful use of a weapon in East Moline. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Keith Petty. The officer determined that Petty had a suspended driver's license and placed him under arrest. In a search incident to this arrest, a small handgun was found inside the vehicle. Based on this incident, Petty was indicted in July 2007 on federal charges of felon in possession of a firearm.

This case was prosecuted in the United States Attorney's Office in the Southern District of Iowa pursuant to the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. This investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Davenport Police Department, and the East Moline Police Department.

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