

NEWS RELEASE

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Project Safe Neighborhood: Jury Convicts Kankakee Felon for Possessing Firearm

Urbana, Ill. – The U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Rodger A. Heaton, announced that a federal jury in Urbana, Illinois, convicted Dwayne T. Allen, age 27, this afternoon for unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The jury deliberated approximately two hours before returning the guilty verdict.

Jurors began hearing evidence in the trial on Tuesday, June 17, 2008. Evidence presented by the government showed that on January 15, 2008, Allen, while at 597 N. Washington in Kankakee, pulled out a .38 caliber revolver and fired shots while inside the home. The firearm was recovered in a nearby alley. At the time of the offense, Allen was on parole after being convicted of robbery in Kankakee County in 2006.

Allen has remained in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service since March 2008, when a grand jury returned the single-count indictment charging Allen.

Chief U.S. District Judge Michael P. McCuskey scheduled sentencing for Allen on September 17, 2008 at 10:00 am in Urbana. At sentencing, Allen faces a maximum of ten years imprisonment and three years of supervised release.

The indictment resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Kankakee Police Department as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ronda Holliman Coleman.

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