



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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OWENSBORO DRUG DEALER PLEADS TO FEDERAL VIOLATIONS

*- Multi-time Convicted Felon pleads to possessing semi-auto
pistol and 6 pounds of Marijuana*

OWENSBORO, KY - Joshua Eugene Shepherd, age 28 years old, of 7161 US HWY, in Davies County, entered a guilty plea on July 28, 2008, to charges of possession with intent to distribute marijuana and possession of a firearm by convicted felon, U.S. Attorney , David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

Pursuant to a plea agreement, Shepherd admitted that on June 3, 2007, when he was stopped by a Daviess County Sheriff for Driving under the Influence, he was in possession of six pounds of marijuana packaged for sale, with an estimated street value of \$9,600.00, and a Taurus, 9mm semi-automatic pistol. Shepherd also acknowledged that he was a convicted felon, who had previously been convicted under separate Kentucky State Court Indictments 97CR00321, 98CR00091, 97CR00412 and 00CR00032, between 1999 and 2000. Under those combined Indictments Shepherd was convicted of two counts of Trafficking in a Controlled Substance within a 1,000 yards of a school, four counts of Burglary III degree, one count Theft by Unlawful Taking Over Three Hundred Dollars, two counts of Unlawful Transaction with a Minor I and, three counts Burglary II Degree.

The maximum potential penalties are no more than 10 years imprisonment, a combined fine of \$500,000.00, and supervised release for a period of 3 years, however, if the Court finds Shepherd, based upon his prior criminal history to be an Armed Career Criminal, then his maximum potential penalty will be Life imprisonment and his minimum potential penalty will be 15 years imprisonment.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mac Shannon. The Bowling Green Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with Daviess County Sheriff , as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

Defendant, Shepherd is scheduled for final sentencing before the United States Judge Joseph H. McKinley on October 20, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., in Owensboro, Kentucky.

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