



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
District of Maryland



Rod J. Rosenstein
United States Attorney

Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer

36 South Charles Street
4th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091

Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov

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**Contact AUSA VICKIE E. LEDUC or
MARCIA MURPHY at (410) 209-4885**

**BALTIMORE MAN EXILED TO 15 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR ILLEGAL GUN POSSESSION**

Baltimore, Maryland - U.S. District Judge William D. Quarles, Jr. sentenced Theodore Parker, Jr., age 26, of Baltimore, today to 15 years in prison followed by three years of supervised release for possession of a gun by a felon, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein. Judge Quarles enhanced Parker's sentence upon finding that he is an armed career criminal based on three prior felony drug convictions.

According to his guilty plea, Baltimore Police officers were patrolling in the 1600 block of Normal Avenue, Baltimore on May 3, 2007. They observed Parker walking, and believed that Parker was concealing a large object in the waistband of his pants. As they approached Parker, the officers saw Parker walk onto a porch where three or four others were present, remove a black object from his waistband and bend down. At this time, someone yelled "5-0," alerting that police officers were approaching. The individuals on the porch and Parker walked away. The police apprehended Parker and searched the porch where they found a loaded semi-automatic pistol.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein thanked Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy and Assistant State's Attorney Josh Felsen, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Baltimore Police Department for their assistance in the investigation and prosecution. Mr. Rosenstein commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys John W. Sippel, Jr. and Gregory Welsh, who prosecuted the case.