



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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LOUISVILLE DRUG DEALER PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

-After previously pleading to possessing a .357 caliber pistol and \$45,000 of "crack" felon pleads to using firearms to further his drug dealing

LOUISVILLE, KY - Jimmel Leshawn Adams, age 26, of 1040 West Magazine Street, in Jefferson County, entered a plea of guilty to possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking, 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. Adams is now a four-time convicted felon.

On March 3, 2008 Adams had previously admitted that on January 13, 2007 he possessed with the intent to distribute approximately 458 grams of crack cocaine, with an estimated street value of \$45,800.00. Adams also admitted that, on the same date, he possessed a .357 Taurus revolver and a Tech-9 Intratec pistol. At the time of these offenses, Adams admitted that he was a convicted felon based upon previous State Court convictions, from Jefferson County, for Trafficking in a Controlled Substance I and, in a separate case, of Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. When Adams originally pled he denied possessing the firearms in furtherance of his drug trafficking activities. However, after a hearing in which the United States produced evidence to the Court detailing Adams' arrest on January 13, 2007, Adams reversed course and admitted he possessed the firearms in furtherance of his drug trafficking activities.

The maximum penalty the Adams faces on the final count is no more than five years to run consecutive to any sentenced imposed for the previous counts, and a fine of, up to, \$250,000.00. The maximum potential penalties, for the previous pled to counts, are life imprisonment, a combined fine of \$4,250,000.00, and supervised release for a period of Life; and the minimum potential penalties are 10 years imprisonment, and supervised release for a period of not less than 5 years.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mac Shannon. The Louisville Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Louisville Metro Police Department, as part of ATF's ongoing commitment to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

This is a Project Backfire prosecution. Project Backfire is a cooperative effort by the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorneys Office, the Louisville Metro Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that firearm offenses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the state and federal law.

The plea was entered before McKinley, Judge, United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky.

Adams is scheduled for final sentencing before Judge McKinley on January 5, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

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