



PRESS RELEASE

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Madison Man Pleads Guilty to Firearm Possession

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Shondell Buchanan, Madison, DOB: 10/03/79, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison to unlawfully possessing a firearm as a convicted felon, and failure to appear in court as required.

Buchanan was arrested by Madison Police Department officers on May 25, 2004, after police received a shots fired call. Police stopped a car in which Buchanan was a passenger and recovered a Ruger 9mm pistol, no serial number. Ballistics analysis proved the Ruger had been involved in the shooting.

Buchanan admitted the Ruger was his, and that he had stolen it. Buchanan was indicted by a federal grand jury for unlawfully possessing the Ruger as a convicted felon, and he was released on conditions of pretrial release. A mandatory condition of release required Buchanan to appear for all future court appearances. On October 15, 2004, Buchanan failed to appear for his final pretrial conference.

U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing for both cases for May 2, 2005, at 1:15 p.m. Buchanan faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison on the felon in possession of a firearm charge, and a maximum penalty of five years in prison on the failure to appear charge.

The charges against Buchanan were the result of an investigation conducted by the Madison Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the United States Marshals Service. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

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