



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan*

*211 W. Fort Street
Suite 2001
Detroit, Michigan 48226*

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CONTACT: GINA BALAYA - USAO (313) 226-9758
VERA FEDORAK - ATF (313) 259-7917

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A 35-year-old Detroit man was sentenced to 420 months in prison after being found guilty of federal firearm and narcotics charges, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy and Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced today.

Vincent Thompson was sentenced on May 16, 2005, by U.S. District Judge Victoria A. Roberts in federal court in Detroit.

This case is one of the more than 300 that have been referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office for prosecution under a Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative that provides for the referral of gun cases by local prosecutors in those instances in which federal law provides for a substantially higher sentence.

On July 1, 2002, THOMPSON was arrested following the execution of a search warrant by the Detroit Police Department at a residence in Detroit where suspected drug activity was occurring. Two days before the warrant was executed, Detroit Police officers made a controlled purchase of narcotics from the location. The house was searched for narcotics. Recovered from inside the house was 11.34 grams of cocaine base (also known as crack cocaine), 33.28 grams of marijuana and a loaded .357 handgun. THOMPSON was on lifetime state probation at the time of his arrest.

"This case is proof once again that Project Safe Neighborhoods is making a difference in our communities," Murphy said. "My office will continue to aggressively seek higher sentences for gun offenders."

ATF SAC Goddard stated, "The conviction and lengthy sentence in this case highlights the significance Project Safe Neighborhoods plays in our fight to keep guns and violent offenders off the street."

U.S. Attorney Murphy commended the efforts of agents of ATF, officers of the Detroit Police Department and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeanine Jones for their diligent work on this case.

For questions regarding the Project Safe Neighborhoods in the Eastern District of Michigan, please contact Peggy Goodwin, The Goodwin Co. at 248-543-3891.

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