



ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
New Orleans Field Division

Contact: Senior Special Agent Austin R. Banks
(504) 329-1443

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ATF'S NEW GUN HOTLINE SNARES ANOTHER VIOLENT OFFENDER

NEW ORLEANS -- David G. Harper, Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Jim Letten, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, announced today that a Jefferson, La., man has been arrested on federal firearms charges.

The ATF-led New Orleans Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT) arrested Carl E. Price, 43, yesterday without incident after executing a federal search warrant at his residence, 630 Central Avenue in Jefferson, and finding a loaded firearm under a pillow in Price's bedroom.

Price had an initial appearance today before U.S. Magistrate Louis Moore, Jr., and was charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in federal prison and up to a \$250,000 fine.

The ATF Violent Crime Impact Team initiated the investigation after information was received from a caller on ATF's 504-581-GUNS (4867) hotline. The caller reported that Price, a convicted felon, possessed a firearm. It was the second arrest made as a result of a tip received through the hotline, which ATF and the New Orleans Police Department launched Oct. 10 to help New Orleanians report information on firearms-related violent crime.

According to the federal complaint, Price has a 1993 aggravated assault conviction in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, a 1995 felony conviction for distribution of cocaine in St. Bernard Parish Criminal District Court, and a 1999 ATF federal firearms conviction in the Eastern District of Louisiana. Federal law prohibits convicted felons from possessing firearms or ammunition.

"This is a perfect example of how our 504-581-GUNS hotline can work," Harper said. "We hope that other citizens will join our team to make our communities a safer place to live."

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Page 2

VCIT is an ATF-led initiative that uses innovative technology, analytical investigative resources and an integrated federal, state and local law enforcement strategy to identify, disrupt, arrest and prosecute the most violent criminals in 25 U.S. cities, including New Orleans. The case against Price was part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative and is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Louisiana.

The charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

More information on ATF and its programs is at www.atf.gov.

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