



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Indiana

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INDIANAPOLIS MAN CHARGED WITH BEING FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARM

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that LAWRENCE SOWERS, 49, Indianapolis, was indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis for possession of a firearm by a person previously convicted of a felony. This prosecution follows an investigation by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and is part of the PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS initiative.

_____ On March 21, 2007, an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police officer responded to a dispatch from a 911 call. The caller told the dispatcher that a man was firing shots from a car parked in a driveway in the 1400 block of S. Ingomar Street. The responding police officer saw the car leaving the area. It was driven by its sole occupant LAWRENCE SOWERS. SOWERS did not initially yield to the lights and sirens of police, but soon abandoned his vehicle and ran. Officers observed a firearm in his hand, which SOWERS threw along a fence line. The firearm was a loaded, 9mm, Smith & Wesson, semi-automatic pistol. The indictment further alleges that SOWERS was previously convicted of three counts of Dealing and one count of Attempt Dealing in a Controlled Substance, all Class B Felonies, in 1980 in Marion County, Indiana.

According to First Assistant United States Attorney Timothy M. Morrison, who is prosecuting the case for the government, SOWERS faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000. However, if he is found to have been convicted of three, prior, qualifying felonies, as alleged in the indictment, SOWERS would be sentenced as an Armed Career Criminal and subject to a minimum, mandatory period of 15 years and a maximum of life imprisonment. An initial hearing on the indictment will be

scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis. SOWERS was initially charged in a Complaint and was ordered detained pending resolution of his case, following a hearing before a U.S. Magistrate Judge.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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