



Department of Justice

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INDIANAPOLIS MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARM

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that LAWRENCE SOWERS, 50, Indianapolis, was sentenced to fifteen years in prison as an Armed Career Criminal by Chief Judge David F. Hamilton following his guilty plea to possessing a firearm after being 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.

SOWERS qualified as an Armed Career Criminal because he had three qualifying violent or drug related felonies. 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, Robbery a Class B Felony in 1988, and Dealing in a Sawed-Off Shotgun, a Class D Felony in 1988, all in Marion County. He was also convicted of Criminal Confinement, a Class D Felony in 1995 in Hancock County..

Chief Judge Hamilton also imposed a \$1,000 fine and ordered SOWERS to serve five years of supervised release following his incarceration. SOWERS has been detained pending resolution of his case since his arrest.