



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PLANT CITY FELON CONVICTED
ON GUN AND DRUG CHARGES

Tampa, FL - A jury in U.S. District Court today found Renaldo Jovon Lewis, age 27, of Plant City, guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm and possession of crack cocaine. Lewis faces a minimum mandatory sentence of 15 years, a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, and a \$250,000 fine. The sentencing hearing is scheduled for October 10, 2008.

Lewis was indicted on March 20, 2008. According to the indictment, Lewis has been convicted on nine prior occasions of felony drug offenses in Hillsborough County. Eight of those prior convictions were for trafficking or sale of cocaine.

According to evidence presented at trial, on November 15, 2007, Plant City Police stopped Lewis for a traffic violation. Lewis tried to hide a loaded pistol and crack cocaine and after an officer locating the gun and drugs, Lewis gave three inconsistent explanations to the arresting officer.

The case was investigated by United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Plant City Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Amanda Riedel and Cherie Krigsmann.