



Department of Justice

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TAMPA MAN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY AND CARJACKING

_____ Tampa - FL Cheddie Lamar Griffin, age 28, was found guilty by a federal jury of charges of carjacking, kidnaping, robbery and several firearms violations following a four day trial. On the firearms violations alone, Griffin faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 82 years imprisonment up to life imprisonment. Sentencing is set for August 29, 2008.

According to testimony at the trial, on December 19, 2007, Griffin and three others carjacked and kidnaped a Hillsborough County firefighter in Tampa and then drove him to Polk County where they forced him to withdraw several hundred dollars from a Bank ATM machine in Mulberry. Griffin took the withdrawn money and then later released the firefighter. The other two adult individuals involved in the incident, Kendrick Ivey and Charlie Joubert Taylor, have pleaded guilty and testified during the trial. They are awaiting sentencing. The third individual was a juvenile and will be prosecuted by the State Attorney's Office.

On January 10, 2008, Griffin robbed the owner and two other people at an auto stereo business in Lakeland. After the robbery he was spotted by law enforcement officers and was captured after a high speed chase.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Explosives, the Tampa Police Department, the Lakeland Police Department, and the Polk County Sheriff's Office. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Walter Furr.