



Department of Justice

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HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEES SENTENCED ON FIREARMS CHARGES

Atlanta, GA - THEO STEVENSON, 23, now of Lithonia, Georgia, but originally from Gretna, Louisiana, and ERIC McMILLON, 20, of Gretna, Louisiana, were sentenced today by United States District Judge Julie E. Carnes on federal firearms charges, stemming from the theft of firearms from a pawn shop in Gretna, Louisiana, following Hurricane Katrina last summer.

“The citizens of North Georgia have welcomed and helped many Hurricane Katrina evacuees who relocated here after that terrible disaster,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “At the same time, law enforcement here has been on the lookout for those who would take advantage of our hospitality. These two young men brought to Atlanta firearms looted from a suburban New Orleans pawn shop in the hours after Hurricane Katrina devastated the area. Their prison sentences today send the message that the citizens of North Georgia will not allow our generous spirit to be used by criminals as cover for the relocation of their illegal activity.”

ATF Special Agent In Charge Vanessa McLemore said, “Federal law enforcement does not have tunnel vision when it comes to combating firearms crimes, be it illegal trafficking, violent crime, or theft. Addressing firearms crime in one part of the country also has an effect in other parts of the country. I am confident that the Atlanta arrests and sentencing of these two defendants will serve to help clean up the streets of New Orleans by not having these two violators and their criminal behavior return to New Orleans.”

STEVENSON was sentenced to 1 year, 6 months in federal prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. STEVENSON pleaded guilty to the charges on February 13, 2006. McMILLON was sentenced to 2 years in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. McMILLON pleaded guilty to the charges on January 10, 2006.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: “B.J.’s Pawn Shop” in Gretna, Louisiana, a suburb of New Orleans, was burglarized in the hours after Hurricane Katrina devastated the area and 70 firearms, plus other merchandise, were stolen. The defendants, STEVENSON and McMILLON left the New Orleans area with

Stevenson's family and after a few days relocated to the Atlanta area. On September 29, 2005, DeKalb County Police officers stopped STEVENSON and McMILLON for driving a rental vehicle with an improperly displayed tag. During the traffic stop, the officers found several small bags of marijuana and a handgun, which turned out to be one of the firearms stolen from B.J.'s Pawn Shop after the hurricane. A subsequent search of the Gretna, Louisiana, home of McMILLON's parents yielded four other firearms - 3 assault-style rifles and one shotgun - stolen from the same pawn shop. STEVENSON pleaded guilty to possession and transportation of a stolen firearm, along with being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. McMILLON pleaded guilty to possession and transportation of a stolen firearm, along with possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute it.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the ATF.

Assistant United States Attorney Todd C. Alley prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or F. Gentry Shelnett, Chief, Criminal Division, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.