



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias
Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

04/03/07

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>

CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

ARREST IN THEFT OF 20 GUNS FROM PEACHTREE SUMMIT FEDERAL BUILDING IN ATLANTA

ATLANTA, GA - DONALD LANES, 35, of Ellenwood, Georgia, was arrested today on charges of aiding and abetting the theft of firearms. LANES is expected to make his initial appearance before Federal Magistrate Judge Alan Baverman at 2:15 p.m. in Atlanta.

“This is another case of guns illegally procured in metro Atlanta showing up in a city hundreds of miles away,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “Thanks to aggressive investigation by the ATF, we were able to re-secure these stolen firearms before they were used in other crimes. This case is concerning because the defendant was supposed to be a security officer protecting public safety and the numerous federal offices and hundreds of federal employees housed in his building.”

ATF Special Agent In Charge Vanessa McLemore said, “Firearms-related violence is one of this nation’s primary concerns. By dismantling firearms trafficking operations all the way to their source, we strive to stem the flow of guns to criminals on the street, one case at a time.”

According to the criminal complaint filed in this case: On or about January 1, 2006, 20 firearms belonging to the “Alpha Protective Service” (“APS”) were stolen from APS’ office space located on the 17th floor of the Peachtree Summit Federal Building in downtown Atlanta. APS is a contractor that provides security services for the Federal Protective Service (FPS).

On February 6, 2006, ten firearms were purchased by an undercover officer for the ATF/New York Police Department (NYPD) Joint Firearms Task Force (JFTF). The undercover officer purchased the firearms from a cooperating defendant while at the "Brooklyn Hair Squad" barber shop in New York, New York. The ten firearms purchased were identified by serial numbers as some of those stolen from the Peachtree Summit Building on or about January 1, 2006. Three days later, seven more firearms were purchased by an undercover officer from the same cooperating defendant at the "Brooklyn Hair Squad" barber shop. The seven firearms were also identified by serial numbers as stolen from the Peachtree Summit Building. The cooperating defendant was arrested on August 3, 2006, and

further investigation revealed that another alleged co-conspirator lived at 4768 Mayer Terrace in Ellenwood, Georgia.

The residence at that address was that of DONALD LANES, who was an APS employee assigned to the Peachtree Summit Building. In a subsequent interview of LANES, he claimed that he assisted an unknown individual in the theft of the firearms from the building. LANES provided a written statement that outlined his assistance in the theft of the firearms, claiming that he gave the unknown man a tour of the building, including the secure room where the APS firearms are stored. LANES said he allowed the unknown man to observe the procedure used by APS employees to store their firearms, and LANES also provided the man with the building access code, which would have given access to the room where the firearms were stored.

This case was investigated by the ATF along with agents of from the Federal Protective Service (FPS).

Assistant United States Attorney Todd Alley is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, 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.